

Morningside Neighborhood Association
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2016
Painters Hall – Pringle Creek Community

Called to Order – 6:31 PM – by Chair, Pamela Schmidling

Self-Introductions – In attendance are: Pamela Schmidling; Janet Buble; Al Tocchini; Theresa Byrnes (Visitor – Morningside Neighbor); Brian McKinley (Visitor - Salem Planning Commission); Geoffrey James; Keith Keever (Visitor - Salem Parks and Recreation Dept.); Lloyd Chapman; McKenzie Farrell; Jonathan Schlackler; Scott Schaefer; Sam Hall; Ken Hetsel (Visitor – Pringle Creek Watershed Council); Thomas Smith; (Quorum present);

Police Report – Officer Singleton: New to this shift/area; No significant crime lately in neighborhood; asked for any questions about department or local situations; Question from Jonathan S. regarding recent break-in attempt at Painters Hall – thwarted by motion detectors on interior lighting – how can PCC deter such activity? Answer – more lighting, less shrubs and install alarm system; Officer Singleton added that it helps for Police to have contact person responsible for such facilities (J.S. and Officer Singleton exchanged contact info.); Sam H. asked Officer Singleton if he was aware of recent auto accidents on Reed Road – two involving cars into ditch (ice?) plus one – a hit and run – downing a light pole (SF security unable to get the license number), and Officer said he would check the reports for that time; Thomas S. brought up discussion about Yield signs, and frequent disregard of them by drivers entering Mission Street from ramp off of 13th – and confirmed difference between Yield and Merge; Officer Singleton mentioned Salem Police Facebook page and Chief’s Blog on the Department’s Webpage; Pam S. quizzed Officer Singleton on C.E.R.T, and officer had vague idea of what it stood for; and Pam S. told him that during emergency situations where homes suffering damage and people possibly needing help might be receiving citizen attention, the C.E.R.T. people will be the ones wearing green vests with CERT on them;

Parks Foundation – Thomas S. mentioned that the Foundation provides and/or provides small grants for improving City park resources, and the deadline for 2016 grant applications is March 31st; “Not a lot of cash, but they do find ways to help fund playground equipment, benches, etc.; also Thomas S. mentioned the Foundation is selling the now-famous “Owl Capone” signs to help support the new playground in Bush Park near LaSalle Ave.; comment from Pam S. that Board member Muriel Meyer has grant application forms and is familiar with the process;

Fairview Park – Update – Parks & Rec Director Keith Keever said we are in the middle of the master planning process for this park, and gave us a presentation including visual aids and handed out information on meeting schedule changes and survey forms to get our input on park design alternatives being considered; this park site can simultaneously accommodate development for three categories of community activity – North end is more suited for neighborhood park activities such as picnic, playground and court sports such as Basketball, Volleyball and Tennis; flatter South part is well-suited for field sports such as Baseball and Soccer; steeper east side is developable for walking, bicycling, Frisbee golf and dog park; some consideration is also given for limited golf; also, dog parks would be completely-fenced and designed to separate off-leash exercise of large and aggressive dog breeds from small and more docile breeds; Director Keever said that the restroom facilities in this park would have full utilities including flushing toilets; Several attendees commented on attributes of particular designs; Keever also asked us to complete and submit the surveys he handed out either in writing and mailing or online at the City’s Website, and survey input will be processed for presentation at February 3 meeting; the next meeting after that is scheduled for March 16; Question from Lloyd C. on another subject related to Parks: Is there any chance the City will use the metal slide removed from Morningside School? Director Keever said his department was all-for repurposing the slide, but City’s Risk Management department advised Council against it; Pam S. mentioned that (MNA Board member and City Councilor) Brad Nanke is working on getting City Council to reconsider;

Traffic – No report (Alan Meyer not present);

Land Use – Geoffrey J. mentioned that the meeting of city planners is going on right now to review appeals regarding the already-approved siting of the Fred Meyer gas station on Madrona near Commercial; Faye Wright N. A. has filed the appeal against it, and City has received and acknowledged Morningside N. A.’s letter of concerns about the development’s potential impacts on neighboring residences and traffic; Geoffrey J. also mentioned Council’s rejection of idea to retain and repurpose Breton Hall as part of the Fairview Park development;

Parks – No report (Muriel Meyer not present) – McKenzie F. asked that we should discuss some kind of grant application ASAP to meet the deadline explained earlier by Thomas S.;

Pringle Creek Watershed – Ken Hetsel reported that the boundaries of the North Santiam Watershed (Council) jurisdiction have been expanded to include Mill Creek and Pringle Creek – thus making more grant money available for projects in our neighborhood; projects include vegetation management and litter clean-up along the waterways, as well as stream improvements; the Pringle Creek Watershed Council is trying to let private property owners

know that help is available for such work on their property as well as on public property; Ken H. also mentioned PCWC's desire to develop habitat corridors for pollinators and other wildlife;

C.E.R.T. – Pamela S. announced the classes are beginning, and they are seeing more and younger citizens showing interest this time-around;

Liquor Licenses – Pamela S. – Nothing new to report since last meeting;

Transit – No report (Bob not present);

Announcements –

Annual Meeting - Pamela reminded us we need to decide on which night in May we will hold the meeting – our normal meeting day (second Wednesday of month) conflicts with Council's annual budget meeting; Board unanimously voted to hold the meeting one week later than normal (May 18th), and McKenzie F. said she will check on the availability of Painters Hall on that date for the meeting;

Pringle Creek Community concerns about Fairview Plan – Jonathan S. asked the Board if it can endorse P.C.C.'s letter of concerns about the development plan for Fairview Park, and the Fairview property in general – basically that noise, traffic and lighting intrusion be minimized for P.C.C. and that developments should adhere as closely as possible to both the original Fairview Plan, as well as the Morningside Neighborhood Plan; Jonathan distributed to Board members a draft of the letter for the Board's endorsement; Discussion ensued about the need for board to agree on it, with review, input and approval possible by email, mail and in-person delivery;

Regarding Lighting in park facilities – Director Kever said there are two types of lighting – Safety/Security and Activity;

Safety/Security lighting serves structures, driveways and walkways – with accident and crime prevention the prime objective, and is operational generally from dusk to dawn;

Activity lighting serves activities such as sports events and unorganized recreational facility uses, and is programmed to turn-off at a prescribed time – usually by 10 PM;

All new lighting is more focused and designed and placed to minimize intrusion to areas outside the purpose of the lighting;

Pamela S. asked for the letter to be sent out for Board approval before February 1;

McKenzie said that she will be the contact person for Pringle Creek Community;

Meeting Adjourned – 7:43 p.m.