

July 23, 2024 Marylhurst Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes Draft

President Karie Oakes called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm, quorum present.

Approval of the agenda was moved and seconded and unanimously passed.

Approval of the minutes of May 28, 2024 was moved and seconded and unanimously passed with a member's name deleted from the draft as requested.

Treasurers Report Jim Koll reported a balance of \$8482.94 after two monthly Zoom expenses of \$15.99.

Neighborhood Association Presidents Group Karie reported the NAP bi-monthly meeting was rescheduled to July 25, 2024.

Discussion of Sidewalks in the Transportation System Plan with Erich Lais, Public Works Director and City Engineer. The 2016 TSP includes 104 city pedestrian projects. The city has had multiple urgent requests for improvements. The Transportation Advisory Board has been looking at infill sidewalks and will be working with consultants to update sidewalk priorities and cost estimates in the TSP. Six projects through Marylhurst Heights neighborhood were discussed.

P70 Carriage Way install sidewalk from 150ft west of Suncrest on the north side to Rosemont RD. Medium priority probably because there are sidewalks on other side.

P80 Marylhurst DR install a sidewalk on one side from Willamette DR to Hillcrest DR east (lower) end. There are right of way problems on some south-side properties that may require condemnation and significant topographical challenges as shown on a city map and Google Maps Street view. High priority. Cost estimation of 340,000 needs updating. A member asked if a study of the feasibility of a sidewalk on Marylhurst DR had been done to determine feasibility and the side of the road for a sidewalk and its connection to a sidewalk on Hillcrest DR. Mr. Lais recalled the previous city engineer spoke of doing a study but he believed it was not done.

City engineers are considering a project to construct a sidewalk (2 blocks long) on the south side of Marylhurst DR from Midhill Circle to Willamette DR to leverage costs by partnering with a new development there. Members thought it didn't make sense to construct the short segment of sidewalk on the south-side not knowing if it could be continued to Hillcrest DR (east) in the future. Members find the northside is safer to walk because of better visibility, especially through the steep banks and turns.

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Members suggested that a pedestrian path (asphalt or gravel) up Marylhurst DR might be more feasible and a fee in lieu for this project could go toward it. Mr. Lais said typically, developers improve the frontage on their side of the street or pay a fee in lieu and that asphalt is less durable. He appreciated our input and will reconsider the project, which is on hold until the developer decides whether to access Marylhurst DR.

MNA wants to continue to work with the city to ensure safe routes for pedestrians as stated in the MNA Neighborhood Plan. We've seen vegetation overgrowth along Marylhurst DR and Hillcrest DR put pedestrians and automobiles at risk over many years despite limited code enforcement efforts. Currently, the risk is very high and sidewalk/path improvements in the TSP are not an immediate solution but improving/widening the shoulder and maintaining the right of way would address the problem in the interim.

Mr. Lais said the city sent 500 letters last year to homeowners out of compliance with the code to maintain the right of way adjacent their property but it was not enforced and nothing has happened as a consequence of the letters. The city could cut the vegetation and bill the homeowner. There is only one code enforcement officer. Public works met with code enforcement last week to develop policy to be more proactive.

P93 Suncrest DR install sidewalk on the eastside at unannexed property at about Ridgcrest DR. This infill would provide continuous sidewalk from Carriage WY to Valley View DR. High priority.

P94 Suncrest DR install sidewalk on the eastside between Valley View DR and Hillcrest DR. High priority.

P95 Suncrest DR install sidewalk on the westside between Valley View DR and Hillcrest DR. High priority.

A member suggested that it needs to be studied if both sides of Suncrest DR need sidewalks (P94 and P95) to connect to one sidewalk on Hillcrest DR. The goal being one contiguous safe pedestrian route through the neighborhood.

P101 Hillcrest DR install sidewalk on one side from Suncrest to Marylhurst DR and Hillcrest DR (east). High priority. It was noted that a study is needed to determine the feasibility of a sidewalk, which side to install it and connect it to the Marylhurst DR sidewalk/path and the Suncrest DR sidewalk to provide a contiguous safe route. Mr Lais said he was happy to look into a sidewalk corridor study.

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Mr. Lais informed us of an Oregon Department of Transportation project to improve the intersection of Marylhurst DR and Hwy. 43. It is part of a larger plan for infrastructure improvements to the entire Hwy 43 corridor in West Linn that was planned years ago. This intersection is a piece of a larger segment from Lake Oswego to Mapleton ST that had to be scaled back due to right of way delays and cost increases. Improvements include pedestrian crossings with improved ramps, start of bike lanes and sidewalks and a left turn lane and a right turn/through lane on Marylhurst DR. Two large trees will be removed to widen the Marylhurst intersection for the lanes. The pedestrian crossings are at the same time as the left turn. These are not considered protected crossings. The project is expected to go out for bid in October and begin in Feb/Mar. ODOT is addressing the part of the segment from Hidden Springs RD to Cedar Oak DR because the plan proposed extending Hidden Springs RD through the church property to Old River RD to which the church and Robinwood Neighborhood Association objected.

Karie asked if there were any questions/concerns for Mr. Lais. A member suggested a stop sign is needed at View DR and Marylhurst DR to slow downhill traffic. He was concerned for the safety of cars turning onto Marylhurst DR. He also noticed big box truck traffic has increased on Marylhurst DR, maybe cutting through the neighborhood to Rosemont DR. There is a sign at View DR: no truck traffic over 40 ft. Mr. Lais said code enforcement would have to be called to enforce it.

A member noted the TSP bike plan through Marylhurst neighborhood follows the same corridor as the sidewalk plan and it was not studied for feasibility and has no completed segments or foreseeable completion. She suggested the interim bike plan in the TSP for "share the road" markings be considered as a more immediate solution for both bike and pedestrian safety. Mr. Lais was uncertain of the criteria for "share the road" and if it addressed a few users, but would consider it.

To conclude with Mr. Lais, Karie reiterated MNA's goal of providing a contiguous safe pedestrian route through the neighborhood and desire to participate in the process to update the TAB that is apparently beginning with the Transportation Advisory Board. At her request, Mr. Lais confirmed that the process is for the TAB to make a recommendation to the Planning Commission who in turn makes a recommendation to the City Council for a final decision. The PC and CC hearings offer opportunity for public comments or any recommendation from MNA. Mr. Lais will look into a sidewalk corridor study, but it would take some time and to check back with him in 6 months. Thanks to Mr. Lais for coming and his support of MNA efforts toward our goal.

Plan Neighborhood Social Members decided the time to be 2-4 pm on Saturday, Sept 7th at shelter A at Marylhurst Heights Park. MNA will provide ice cream cones and toppings, supplies for kids to paint their faces, bubbles and volley balls. Karie will check

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if the Park Dept could have the spray pad open. Christine Blanche agreed to design a postcard for the city to mail to households. Karie and Jim coordinate to purchase products. Any remaining paper goods from previous socials will be used. Plan for 30 people/maximum of 50. Signs will be put up to advertise. Will need people to setup, cleanup and scoop ice cream. Details to be decided at August meeting.

Update on illicit tree removal on Valley CT the July 18 court hearing was reset to August 15 at 10:30 at City Hall. Members may attend and would show continued interest in enforcement and the court process which has dragged out since November. This is a tree code enforcement issue. In this case, the property owner knew the law and avoided/denied the law. It was suggested that MNA could send a mailer to households

Discussion digressed to the problem of overgrown vegetation in the ROW (also a code violation) and ways for improvement, such as talking to neighbor about it and asking if they need help. Or reviving "Take Care of West Linn Day" outreach to help, especially to elderly folks unable or without resources to maintain their property and ROW. Most of the problem is not because of elderly people who likely have help. It's because some people aren't taking care of their property. Discussion was differed to a later meeting.

Items of Interest from Members

Parks Department put water bags on the trees in the park to keep them from dying.

The beauty strip along the park on Valley View DR has weeds growing and needs to be maintained by the Parks Dept.

Revision of MNA Bylaws is needed.

Meeting adjourned.