

S.M.I.L.E. BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2011; SMILE STATION

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Officers and Directors present: President Mat Millenbach, Vice President Sean Murray, Treasurer Pat Hainley, and Secretary Eric Norberg; and Directors Dana Beck, Eric Miller, Nate Maki, Sarah Heath, Paul Notti, Nancy Walsh, and Tom Ramsey

President Mat Millenbach called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm -- and began by asking everyone present to introduce himself or herself. He obtained Board consent to add three items to the meeting's agenda -- a draft letter concerning the Sellwood Bridge; an item on Village Building Convergence; and consideration for approval of the SMILE 2011-12 budget. He then asked for a review of the September Board meeting minutes, after which Sean Murray moved they be accepted as presented, and Tom Ramsey seconded the motion, which then carried unanimously.

President Millenbach announced that Multnomah County's Mike Pullen had asked SMILE for a letter from the neighborhood association Board to the U.S. Department of Transportation, in support of the county's funding request of the DOT. Eric Norberg moved that the letter be sent, Pat Hainley seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Eric Miller revealed that he proposes to spend a half year in Montreal, leaving in December, and thus expects to resign as a SMILE Board member by then. There followed discussion of our Board-member replacement procedures under our new Bylaws. He has not yet resigned, however, and remains on the Board.

Millenbach next proposed to consolidate a variety of environmentally-oriented SMILE ad hoc committees into an ad-hoc "Natural Amenities and Stewardship Committee". Considerable discussion followed this proposal -- does it overlap our Sustainability Committee? (Not too much, suggested Mat.) Paul Notti made a motion that Millenbach's proposal be implemented, and Nate Maki seconded. In the discussion period, Margaret Branson, who was present, asked if two of the committees to be consolidated in this way -- the Friends of Oaks Bottom, and the Golf Junction Committee -- still have funds dedicated only to their projects? Pat Hainley said that they do, and that those funds would remain dedicated to projects relating to those two specific locations. The question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

Next, Nanci Champlin was present to discuss her wish to attend an upcoming "Eco District Summit" in Portland; it's coming up

October 26-28, and she proposed being SMILE's representative; she lives in the neighborhood. She passed out fliers with details of the summit. Underwriting her attendance for all three days would cost us \$620. She described her background, and her qualifications to benefit from the meeting.

Mat Millenbach asked Nanci how this proposal would fit into the "Portland Plan"; she responded that there are "sustainability elements in this broader framework". She is a member of the SMILE Sustainability Committee listserv, but evidently is not on the committee itself. Eric Miller agreed that that committee has a "fractured vision, and membership waxes and wanes"; this proposal could be a help. Mat asked Nanci if she planned to use this training to become an active and unifying member of our Sustainability Committee? In her response, she seemed generally to agree with this idea, but did not make a clear commitment to do so, and some general discussion of city initiatives followed.

Pat Hainley asked Nanci how much time she has to devote to the implementation of what she might learn in the neighborhood: "What does the Board get as a return on this investment?" She said she would be willing to use her extra time to pursue this in the neighborhood. Paul Notti pointed out that this conference is broad -- social sustainability, in addition to eco sustainability. "There needs to be a focus, well-defined, going into something like this." Pat Hainley suggested that Nanci needs to come back from the seminar with two specific projects that can involve at least ten people and accomplish their goals within the next year. Nate Maki pointed out that if we appropriate the full amount requested, it would expend half the budget for the Sustainability Committee in this fiscal year. Sean Murray congratulated Nanci on bringing this idea to SMILE and on her initiative -- and suggested partial funding this year. Eric Miller then made a motion that SMILE fund only the October 28th training section for \$200, with the requirement that Nanci return to SMILE within 60 days to report to us on what she learned there. Pat Hainley seconded the motion, which then carried with one abstention, but no nays.

Golf Junction Park was next on the agenda. Millenbach passed out an "issue paper" on the park. The man who originally maintained the small park, located on the south end of S.E. 13th and established by SMILE on property rented for a dollar by SMILE from the Union Pacific Railroad, moved away some time ago and the park has deteriorated. Recently, Mat has coordinated its maintenance, and Garthwick resident Joe Johns (who was present) has taken over the lion's share of park maintenance. Golf Junction Park adjoins Metro land to be used to extend the Springwater Trail, and there is interest in our coordinating with that. It's historic land -- it marks the former "Golf Junction" trolley junction. Dana Beck plans an article about its background and history in the November issue of THE BEE.

There seems to be some controversy over Joe John's placement of a picnic table and trash can in this "pocket park"; apparently some think it should simply be open space, with no seating. One person thinking that turned out to be Margaret Branson (who was present), a Garthwick resident who was instrumental in the original effort to establish the park, while on the SMILE Board. She asked SMILE not to decide the furniture issue until the Springwater Trail is completed to a point opposite Golf Junction Park -- and she added that if furniture is desired at that time, it could be installed just outside the park, "with nothing chained to expensive Hawthorn trees".

Joe Johns offered the thought that he is fond of the park and thinks it's better to enjoy it from a seated position, but he agreed to wait to act further until the Springwater Trail is complete to S.E. 13th, as Margaret had suggested. He said the picnic table has been chained to a tree at present because he believed it would be quickly stolen otherwise. He digressed that there appears to be a tree in the park that seems at least partly dead, and may need removal.

Margaret responded that the tree in question should be examined by an arborist, and the resulting recommendations should guide what we decide to do about it.

Dana Beck then said that whatever is done with the park should be specifically authorized by the SMILE Board, and not just happen.

Millenbach then suggested, since SMILE is meeting with the city in January about the advancement of the Springwater Trail, that we table this matter until then -- observing that Joe has already removed his amenities in the park for the winter; Mat then asked Joe to keep the picnic table and the trash can in storage until a decision is made about them. No further action was taken on Golf Junction Park at this time.

Eric Miller reported that the Board of the Moreland Farmers Market would like a closer relationship with SMILE. Sarah agreed, saying that she and other SMILE members had a good time staffing a SMILE table at this year's Market, and she would like us to do more of that next year. Pat Hainley suggested the new farmers market manager should come to the next Board meeting -- or, if there is no specific matter to consider, to our next General Public Meeting.

Sarah Heath then turned to the matter of the Village Building Convergence. She commented that she has seen difficulties occur in getting participation in neighborhood projects, and would like to see SMILE Station host more community events -- specifically, a week-long summer Village Building Convergence conference -- with perhaps some of it taking place outside, by the sidewalk, to engage passers-by.

Sarah said her reason for bringing up the idea to the Board at so early a time in its formulation was that she hoped it could be the focus of a possible Southeast Uplift Neighborhood Grant application, and those are due in early November. She said she was hoping for SMILE approval to complete such a grant application.

A V.B.C. conference, Sarah explained, is intended to "build community" by focusing on a specific project to be accomplished. Both Pat Hainley and Nancy Walsh said they were concerned that if the proposed project is "personalized" along V.B.C. lines, it could make SMILE Station less appealing to renters and thus damage the rental income from the SMILE Station upon which SMILE depends; a previously installed and subsequently neglected "rain garden" on the east side of the building has already had such a negative effect, in their opinion. Sarah assured them that this must and would be kept in mind in concocting such a project, and that in any event the Board would have to approve the project before it would proceed. Eric Miller then made a motion that Sarah prepare the grant application. Tom Ramsey seconded it, and it then carried with at least one abstention, but no nays.

Eric Norberg then moved that SMILE adopt the proposed budget for the October 2011-September 2012 period that had been presented for Board consideration at the September Board meeting. Tom Ramsey seconded the motion, after which there was some general discussion about general budget policy. The question was called, and, after the Presidential cellular phone was deleted from the budget at Mat's request (he doesn't use it, and never even had it), the motion carried unanimously.

Eric Miller next asked the Board if there were any comments or concerns about the exchange of legal letters concerning the "Blush" adult club. None were voiced. No further action was taken at this time.

There being no other business, Nancy Walsh moved the meeting be adjourned, and Eric Norberg seconded, after which it appeared there was unanimous approval, as Board members arose and headed for the door. The meeting was thus adjourned at 9:34 pm.