

S.M.I.L.E. GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2011; SMILE STATION

www.SellwoodMoreland.org
- as well as -
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Officers and Directors present: President Mat Millembach, Treasurer Pat Hainley, and Secretary Eric Norberg; and Director Dana Beck.

President Mat Millenbach called the monthly SMILE General Public Meeting to order at 7:33 pm, and began by inviting introductions around the room. A quorum was not yet present, so the consideration of the minutes was postponed until later in the meeting.

Mark Wilson, Lynn Barlow, and Travis Ruybal of Portland Parks were present to discuss Oaks Bottom trail restoration and stabilization. The existing Oaks Bottom bluff trail will be restored to its original condition, and 700 lineal feet of boardwalk will be installed over frequently-wet areas of the trail. The connector trail at the north end of Sellwood Park vertically down to the bluff trail has been studied, and cannot be repaired and reopened for a reasonable amount of money, and even if it were, it would be difficult to maintain. The north end of the park can still access the bluff trail via the south path up to the north end of the park.

Meantime, the trail from the parking lot at Milwaukie Avenue and McLoughlin to the Springwater Trail will be raised in the section where it branches to the bluff trail -- it frequently floods in wet weather, and this step should keep it passable.

An attendee with experience in maintaining park trails said keeping a boardwalk clean of fallen leaves would be critical to prevent a slipping hazard for users, and the cheapest and easiest way to do that would be to use a leafblower on the boardwalks once a week in the fall.

Tom Noble of the 7-Eleven Corporation, a Northwest Portland resident, was present to discuss the plans for a 7-Eleven convenience store to replace the now-closed Pine Tree Mini-Mart convenience store at S.E. 17th and Tacoma (northeast corner). He is preparing a "good neighbor" plan in accordance with city planning requirements. The owner of the building is currently rennovating it; 7-Eleven is the lessee, and will file building permits next week -- and is expecting to have the store open, run by its franchisee, by March. Those present asked questions about lighting, traffic, and so forth, to which Mr. Noble responded. A number of opinions about 7-Eleven were expressed. There was advocacy for some landscaping on the property.

Anna Stulz and Tina Osterink were next to appear, with a Tree Plan Update, referencing the neighborhood Street Tree Inventory performed earlier this year. There are 6,500 street trees in our 1,100 acre neighborhood (and only street trees were counted -- not those on private property). There are 100 different types. And, there are over 2,000 spaces by the curbing in our neighborhood where additional trees could be accommodated.

The pair held a dialogue with those in attendance to get a sense of community interest in proceeding further with this. There were many questions about how to apply the city tree code, and how this code may be changing on January 1, 2012.

Although he had not previously requested space on the agenda, Jack DePue of S.E. 11th arose to discuss the "Occupy" movement, which he believes is "a permanent feature". He is a retired teacher, banker, etc.; he opined "we want to be local". He lives here and likes the area, and rejects ruining parks, as the Occupy demonstrators have done downtown. He said he had booked SMILE Station for Wednesday, January 11, 6:30-9 pm, to put on a presentation about, and to discuss, "Occupy" -- "to find commonality, and continue". While making critical comments about the impact of the city on our neighborhood, he disparaged the Bike Boulevard features installed at S.E. 13th and Spokane Street, apparently unaware that these were specifically requested of the city by our neighborhood. In this case at least, it was not a case of the city imposing its priorities on the neighborhood, but being responsive to the neighborhood.

Mat Millenbach announced a special Board seat election at the January SMILE General Public Meeting on January 4, to fill the Board seat vacated by Eric Miller's resignation effective December 1 -- the result of his taking a lengthy sabbatical throughout much of 2012 in Montreal. The winner of this election will complete Miller's term, which expires in May, 2012.

At this point in the meeting, a check was made of the room, and it was determined by President Millenbach that a quorum had been attained. Tina Osterink then made a motion that the minutes of the November SMILE General Public Meeting be approved as submitted, and the motion was seconded by Mark Wilson. In the subsequent vote, the motion passed without opposition.

The hour being 9:08 pm, Mat Millenbach then declared the meeting adjourned.