

S.M.I.L.E. GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2012; SMILE STATION

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- as well as -

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Officers and Directors present: President Mat Millenbach, Treasurer Pat Hainley, and Secretary Eric Norberg; and Directors Nancy Walsh, Michael Hayes, Dana Beck, Sarah Heath, and Tom Ramsey.

President Mat Millenbach called the monthly SMILE General Public Meeting to order at 7:35 pm, and began by inviting introductions around the room. He then asked those present to review the minutes of the December and January General Public Meetings; no corrections or omissions were offered, so Elizabeth Milner moved both sets of minutes be approved as submitted, and Mark Wilson seconded the motion, which subsequently passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Announcements followed -- Mat called attention to the upcoming JCWC "Watershed-Wide Event", and also to open house opportunities for the Inner Southeast MAX light rail line.

Adam Seidman, new Manager for the Moreland Farmers Market, arose to introduce himself and the Market, which started in 2006. Adam has been a neighborhood resident (and Market patron) since 2008. The nonprofit Market has 10 Board members; 12 are allowed, so there's room for two more members. Adam pointed out that the Market's volunteer base is "essential" -- and is "the best in town". In 2011, there were an average of 25 to 30 vendors at each weekly Market, and some 1,200 attendees per week. Food stamp use has been on the rise. For 2012, there again will be major sponsorship from New Seasons Market, and a seniors support program sponsored by Bob's Red Mill.

Seidman pointed out that Woodstock started an excellent farmers market last year, on Sunday mornings -- and may have attracted a small amount of business away from the Moreland Farmers Market. Right now, he is looking for and signing vendors, volunteers, and sponsors. It's planned the Market will expand its year by starting on May 9 and running on Wednesday afternoons through October 17, if the vendors are willing to support the expanded schedule. He asked for feedback on the Market from the community and referred those interested to the Market's Internet website for information: www.morelandfarmersmarket.org.

Ronda Fast was next to appear, on behalf of the restoration efforts which began in 2010 and are ongoing along Crystal Springs Creek. The creek flows from Reed College through the Eastmoreland Golf Course and Westmoreland Park. \$5 million has

been allocated by the city to remove fish-restrictive culverts along the stream. A number of projects are planned over the next two years. This summer a new park will be constructed along the creek at 21st, from S.E. Tenino to Umatilla, and there will be some road closures. Also this year, at the north end of the Eastmoreland Golf Course, a triple-pipe culvert will be replaced. A culvert under the Union Pacific tracks will be replaced this year as well, in conjunction with TriMet's MAX light rail construction project at the same place.

In 2013 the long-planned Westmoreland Park restoration and upgrade will begin, overseen by the Army Corps of Engineers -- but only parts of the plan -- especially the removal of the duck pond and the restoration of the original stream -- will take place at this time, due to budget constraints. In 2014 there will be a culvert replacement at Westmoreland Union Manor.

Jennifer Koozer of TriMet stepped forward to expand on the TriMet-Union Pacific collagoration on culvert replacement.

Sondra Burtzos and Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong were next to appear, to discuss the related topic of the work planned under the Westmoreland Park Master Plan in 2013. They showed maps to detail how the duck pond will be removed, and Crystal Springs Creek will be restored, at the north end of the park. Anna Stulz expressed concern about "light pollution" from the baseball diamonds -- previously a tree or trees had shielded her house from this. Renee Kimball responded that "living here requires tradeoffs between what you like and what you don't".

Sondra and Elizabeth informed those present that when work begins in Westmoreland Park, access will be maintained to the recreational areas of the park. The plan still contemplates moving the "play area" from a point that frequently floods to higher ground nearby where it doesn't. The Parks Department is putting together an advisory committee for this, which is expected to start meeting in March -- and volunteers are needed.

Mike Pullen was next on the agenda, and making a dramatic entrance, he strode in the door at 8:30 pm in the middle of Mat's introduction of his report on the progress made on the new Sellwood Bridge. Mike said there are only two winter months in which in-water work can be done in the Willamette River, out of concern for the fish in the river -- December and January. The work on the piles which will support the temporary bridge could not begin until the permit was granted on December 17, and high water from recent rains prevented at least a week of work in January. The permit expired yesterday, and the County has asked for a two-week extension, but it has not yet been granted. In-river work is also permitted July 1 through October 31 -- so, if necessary, the remainder of the in-water work will be put off until July; the move of the current Sellwood Bridge over onto

the piles to create a temporary bridge during the construction of the new bridge had been planned for late May, but now is expected around Labor Day. With the federal TIGER grant filling in most of the revenue expected from the now-withdrawn support of Clackamas County, there's only a \$5 million gap now, which it is hoped the State Legislature will fill. If not, the project will still go ahead as planned, with some reductions possible in the magnitude of the west-end exchange; no cuts will be made to the bridge or the east end, if indeed any cuts are needed.

Pullen went on to report that the old Staff Jennings building will be demolished this month; the condominiums on both sides of the east end of the bridge will be improved, and the purchased units in these condos will soon be removed. Access to these condo buildings will be relocated to Umatilla Street. A traffic signal at S.E. 6th and Tacoma is now looking more likely, instead of lesser traffic control options, but it is the city's decision. Interpretive signs are planned near the bridge and along the river. Driveway access for the Macadam Bay floating homes on the west side of the river north of the Sellwood Bridge will be moved -- most likely to a point off Miles Street near the Taylor's Ferry stoplight.

Outreach programs about the new Sellwood Bridge construction are being set up with both Llewellyn Elementary and Sellwood Middle schools. The Community Advisory Committee for the new bridge meets on February 27, 5:45 pm, at SMILE Station.

Last to report to the assemblage were Heather Koch, a Sellwood resident and member of that C.A.C., and Peggy Kendellen, Public Arts Manager for the Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC).

Heather and Peggy spoke on the process underway of arranging for the public art for the new bridge, required by the city contribution to the construction project (2% of Portland's contribution must go to public art on the bridge; that's about half a million dollars), to be administered by the RACC.

From about 40 artists, nationally, with large-project experience, who initially expressed interest in this project, a dozen artists were eventually selected and invited to apply -- out of which four artists are to be selected and invited to visit the site, perhaps as early as February 13. One of those four will be selected to pursue the project.

Mat Millenbach asked that the winner's proposal, and an exhibit of the other three finalist proposals, be offered in a public "artists' open house". There seemed receptiveness to this idea by Peggy Kendellen.

There being no other business, President Mat Millenbach declared the meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm.