

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2012; SMILE STATION

www.SellwoodMoreland.org

- as well as -

www.SMILerecords.org

Officers and Directors present: President Mat Millenbach, Vice President Sean Murray, and Secretary Eric Norberg; and Directors Nancy Walsh, Michael Hayes, and Dana Beck.

President Mat Millenbach called the monthly SMILE General Public Meeting to order at 7:32 pm, and began by inviting introductions around the room. He then asked those present to review the minutes of the February General Public Meeting; no corrections or omissions were offered, so Michael Hayes moved, and Mark Magee and Mark Wilson simultaneously seconded, that the minutes be approved as submitted. The subsequent vote was unanimous.

Mat then announced the May 2nd SMILE Board election, which will be the focus of the General Public Meeting on that date. Four Board positions will be open; it is possible that all four Board members in those positions may seek re-election, but anyone interested and qualified can run for a Board seat. Those seats serve a two-year term, alternating in expiration year with the other four two-year Board seats. The four one-year SMILE Board officer positions will also be open; three of those in those seats report they will seek re-election, but anyone interested and qualified can run for a specific officer position as well. The Vice President position will be open; Sean Murray is prevented by job and family constraints from seeking re-election. Mat announced that a three-person SMILE Nominating Committee would be formed to seek candidates; SMILE member Diana Richardson has agreed to serve, and two current Board members will be selected by Mat to serve with her.

Mike Pullen, Multnomah County Spokesman, was present to report on the progress of the project to replace the Sellwood Bridge. The County did receive the hoped-for \$5,000,000 from the State in the just-concluded legislative session -- to fully-fund the project. He went on to recap the last Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. Although the City has not yet made a firm decision, it looks as if there will be a full traffic signal at S.E. 6th and Tacoma. The next CAC meeting will be on April 2 at SMILE Station. Mike added that the four competing artist-teams presented to the community in the February open house liked the experience of learning about the community and its wishes, and enjoyed the project tours. All "received the message" that the community wants some sort of gateway feature at the east end of the bridge. Pullen then sketched the next steps in the bridge replacement project. In response to an audience question, he said the contracting firms that will move the current bridge

north onto temporary piers, to provide a "detour bridge" during the construction of the new bridge, will be Slayden-Sundt, and the firm providing the jacks to winch the old bridge into its new position will be Omega-Morgan.

Chrissy Larson of Portland Parks and Recreation, City Nature Division, spoke next -- focusing on the "Nuts About Nature" program for kids that she developed and runs. Several parents present at the meeting spoke highly of this program.

Kevin Berg of "Hammer And Hand Construction" was present to speak of home energy audits, a program in which his firm participates. These audits are thorough, last four hours, and can be especially helpful for older homes. Homes must be older than 20 years to qualify for the subsidies associated with the program. We had already heard about this from the Neil Kelly Co.

Bradley Heintz arose to update SMILE on the progress of his Park-To-Park walking path project between Sellwood Park and Westmoreland Park. The main remaining obstacle to overcome is a problem corner at Westmoreland Park -- S.E. 23rd at Lambert. He sought neighbor input after the meeting about this.

Ruth Adkins of Portland Public Schools, and Dan Jung, PPS Project Manager, were present to respond to neighborhood concerns about overcrowding at Llewellyn Elementary School, and issues at other nearby schools. They offered several information handouts, and interpreted for those present the categories and statistics on the handouts.

Brenda Ray Scott expressed particular concern about the Llewellyn overcrowding problem; Ms. Adkins responded that there are several PPS schools with that problem currently -- and it certainly is a major concern: "We need to do better". There was additional discussion about looking ahead in education -- the role of online learning, and the role of the Portland Plan.

The principal of Sellwood Middle School was present, and said she was very proud of her student body, and invited anyone interested to tour the school. The building was built in 1914.

A woman in the audience spoke of the importance of having music classes and FIRST Robotics activities in all schools -- as a positive way to keep kids in schools. The comment could have been prompted by the decision last year by Franklin High School to expel its FIRST Robotics club, but that was not specifically mentioned -- although it had been a major cause celebre in Inner Southeast Portland when it happened.

There being no other business offered or on the agenda, President Mat Millenbach announced the meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.