

S.M.I.L.E. GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2012; SMILE STATION

www.SellwoodMoreland.org

- as well as -

www.SMILerecords.org

Officers and Directors present: President Mat Millenbach, Treasurer Pat Hainley, and Secretary Eric Norberg; and Directors Nancy Walsh, Bradley Heintz, Michael Hayes, Tom Ramsey, Gerri Sue Lent, and Ellen Burr

President Mat Millenbach called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm, observing that a quorum had not yet been attained, necessitating putting off the review and approval of the minutes of the August General Public Meeting. He invited introductions from everyone in the room.

The first agenda item was a report on the SMILE "SNAC" Committee (Stewardship of Natural Amenities Committee) meeting which immediately preceded this one. Its Chair, Tina Osterink, was unable to stay to make the report, so committee-member Mark Wilson arose to make the report in her place. He listed the topics covered, and then announced that on October 6th, from 9 am till noon, a "revegetation" party will take place at the north end of Oaks Bottom, and volunteers are needed. He mentioned a "coal train" hearing planned at the City Council.

As concerns the rehabilitation of the Oaks Bottom Bluff Trail, Wilson passed out maps of the temporary trail closure, which began today. The trail will remain closed until the beginning of November, and the Springwater Trail is the only open detour through Oaks Bottom. The Bluff Trail will be rebuilt and repaired, and a flood-fording construction will be built at its north end, where flooding has been a problem in the past.

Ellen Burr was next, with a Land Use Committee update (she is its Chair). The number one topic in land use in the neighborhood lately has been the plan for a four-story, 100-unit apartment house on a half block just north of the Post Office, on the east side of S.E. 15th, where there currently are a house and a duplex. The issue is that the proposed apartment house will provide no off-street parking for its residents at all.

The sale of that property has apparently not yet been completed, but the same developer is involved in several similar apartment houses around the city, and Ellen said that there is an effort underway to coordinate all affected neighborhoods; Matt Wickstrom of Southeast Uplift is involved and is our liaison with the city, and the citywide land use committee is giving the matter some attention. The City Council has responded to the issue by ordering a small parking survey.

Ellen said she had helped found "Friends for Responsible Growth" with representatives of several other neighborhoods. The Overlook and Richmond neighborhoods are split on this issue, but the others affected are pretty united in their concern, and a splinter group of Richmond residents is starting a lawsuit against this developer -- who plans a similar development in their neighborhood -- centering the lawsuit on the fact that the two contiguous lots involved are zoned differently.

Ellen and Mat clarified that SMILE has not taken a position against this apartment house development in our neighborhood at this time, but we have expressed concern; and the SMILE Board has voted to give Ellen Burr authority to explore those concerns on behalf of SMILE. Considerable general discussion on this subject followed involving those present.

As part of the discussion that followed, Tom Ramsey mentioned a "problem property" -- abandoned by its owner, and with intermittent "squatter" issues -- at 8214 S.E. 15th; he has spoken to the owner, who is unwilling to do anything about the code violations on the property, which he has documented with photographs. The city seems reluctant to do much about such problems at this time, apparently.

At 8:08 pm, President Millenbach observed that there was now a quorum present, confirmed by a show of hands, and he asked for a review of the minutes of the August 1 General Public Meeting. A resident identified as Ryan Cosworth moved that the minutes be accepted as presented, and Michael Hayes seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Nancy Walsh next reported on the 33rd annual "Sundae in the Park" on August 5 in Sellwood Park. "We lucked out on the weather," she commented -- it was significantly cooler than the day before, which at 102 degrees was the hottest day in three years. She reported on the many participating organizations which had information tables there, and S.E. Portland Rotary members scooped up and sold over \$1,000 in ice cream sundaes for the first time (with, as usual, all proceeds to the Thelma Skelton Loaves and Fishes Center). The entire day went well, but she would like to see a couple of younger adults join the Sundae in the Park ad-hoc Committee in January, when planning starts for the next one.

Dana Beck arose to invite those present to buy a 2013 SMILE Neighborhood History Calendar (\$10 apiece), benefiting the SMILE History Committee, of which he is Chair. He sold several on the spot.

There being no other business, Nancy Walsh moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Tom Ramsey seconded the motion, which carried with no discernable opposition at 8:30 pm.