

SMILE BOARD MEETING

February 18, 2015

SMILE Station

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Procedural

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OFFICERS PRESENT: Gail Hoffnagle, President; Mat Millenbach, Vice President; Eric Norberg, Secretary; Pat Hainley, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ellen Burr; Corinne Stefanick; Bob Burkholder; Brian Posewitz; Nancy Walsh

President Hoffnagle called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm, and began by soliciting self-introductions from those present around the room, including spectators. With a quorum present, Board members were asked to review the minutes of the January 21st Board Meeting. Mat Millenbach moved that the minutes be accepted as presented, and Corinne Stefanick seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

A resident, identifying herself as Patrice Sanders, arose to warn of an invasive plant resembling a yellow daisy, called Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), which spreads widely by means both of seeds and underground tubers, and which she said would be the subject of a letter in the March issue of *THE BEE*. Although it can be removed by digging it up, including the underground tubers, and throwing it into the garbage (along with the associated dirt) – NOT into the yard debris container – apparently it can only be completely eliminated by means of an herbicide called Lilly Miller Brush and Vine Killer. This is a serious threat, and is spreading rapidly, and is hard to remove, she said. Ellen Burr remarked that the city is not really aware of it yet. It is spreading rapidly in Sellwood, and is starting to be seen in places in Westmoreland.

Ms. Marty Stockton was present from the city to discuss local elements of the Portland Comprehensive Plan. She commented that before she arrived at our meeting she had been in a meeting concerning the split-zoning of the QFC Market property in Westmoreland; the store is zoned for commercial use, but its parking lot is zoned residential. The store would like the parking lot to be zoned commercial too, but the neighbors seem to want to keep it as it is, as a lever in dealings with QFC. She was tonight discussing with the neighbors the effect of the proposed Portland Comprehensive Plan on their concerns, and the consequences of our testimony.

Turning to the Comprehensive Plan, Stockton showed a current map of the latest proposals for the specific downzoning suggested for parts of north Westmoreland. Now, “R 2.5” is being recommended, with an “A overlay”, for the high-density-zoned area (currently “RH”) east of S.E. 17th and north of Insely Street –and she explained the rationale for this suggestion. She also discussed proposals for other areas of north Westmoreland, including efforts to address nonconforming business buildings west of Milwaukie Avenue in that area. She is interested in reconciling zoning with actual use. She went on to discuss with members of the Board specific zoning suggestions shown on the map.

As that discussion ended, Mat Millenbach made a motion for an official SMILE Board recommendation to the city’s Comprehensive Plan Committee concerning a three block section of

S.E. 13th Avenue in Sellwood between Linn and Sherrett Streets. He read the recommendation at length from a prepared statement, as distributed to the Board and incorporated into these minutes by reference. The recommendation, offered he said after talking with neighbors in that area and sending a letter to every property owner in the affected area, as well as holding an open house on the subject at SMILE Station, favored keeping “medium density residential use” for the entire section, except for two corner properties at Linn Street currently in use for apartment houses, which would be designated “multi dwelling 1,000”, to reflect the present use. Pat Hainley and Ellen Burr simultaneously seconded the motion.

In the discussion period that followed, Brian Posewitz suggested that not enough public notice of this motion had been given to enable SMILE to vote on this tonight, and he also disagreed with its content. Eric Norberg cited the months of steps, which Mat had mentioned, to obtain neighborhood feedback on the proposal, and he said that the motion seemed to reflect the neighborhood feedback as best he could tell – and, too, he added, tonight’s Board Meeting would be the last one in which the Board could vote to submit a recommendation in the Comprehensive Plan process. The question was called, and the motion passed 8 to 1, with no abstentions.

Mat then moved on to a second motion: That SMILE’s previously-passed resolution concerning the Sellwood Gap of the Springwater Trail be forwarded, with a SMILE cover letter, to Bob Stacy of Metro, asking that the resolution be implemented by Metro. Pat Hainley seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously.

A woman, identified as Amanda Mortloch, appeared before the Board to appraise SMILE of her plans to upgrade her home from an “Air BnB” short-term guest rental to a more formal “bed and breakfast”, to be licensed by the city. She asked for any concerns. Aside from asking clarifying questions, the Board did not appear to have any. The address of the property is 8504 S.E. 15th Avenue.

Brian Posewitz was next on the agenda to discuss the Comprehensive Plan and the Transportation Systems Plan – which identifies six long-term transportation plans for the neighborhood. One of the six is a pedestrian overcrossing above McLoughlin and the MAX and Union Pacific tracks, on the Reedway alignment, between Westmoreland and the Reed neighborhood. But, he said, there is nothing in the Transportation Systems Plan about completing the Sellwood Gap on the Springwater Trail – although perhaps that is because it is basically a Metro project.

Brian volunteered to present Board preferences for the Reedway Overcrossing, for further implementation of the Tacoma Main Street Plan, and for enhanced pedestrian crossing safety on both S.E. 13th Avenue and S.E. 17th Avenue, and to urge the completion of the Sellwood Gap in the Springwater Trail. Eric Norberg made a motion that the Board authorize Brian to go to the meeting and to so present; Mat Millenbach seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

Gail Hoffnagle next moved that SMILE proceed with a live test of the latest version of the neighborhood questionnaire that she and the SMILE ad-hoc committee have been working on. Nancy Walsh seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Pat Hainley suggested Board members each ask ten people to take the questionnaire, to assist in the test.

Pat Hainley then made a motion to adjourn, and Nancy Walsh seconded the motion, which appeared to pass unanimously, at 9:10 pm.