

SMILE GENERAL PUBLIC MEETING

June 3, 2015
SMILE Station

Blog

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Procedural

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OFFICERS PRESENT: Corinne Stefanick, President; Eric Norberg, Secretary
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Walsh; Miriam Erb; Bob Burkholder; David Schoellhamer; Tenisha Caceres; Steve Szigethy

President Stefanick called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm, and asked those present to introduce themselves, around the room.

She then invited a review of the minutes of the May 6 General Meeting, although no motion or vote on the acceptance of the minutes could yet be taken until a quorum of 20 SMILE members was present, so should a quorum develop that matter would be addressed later in the meeting.

The meeting began with a few SMILE Committee reports.

First to report was the SNAC committee, and the report was made by Co-Chair Elizabeth Milner. She cited recent accomplishments of the committee, and gave its meeting schedule. The Oaks Bottom Overlook “pocket park” at S.E. 13th and Bybee Boulevard is already in service, but there will be an official Grand Opening party later this summer. There will be a celebratory Salmon Festival in Westmoreland Park in the fall. She gave an update on the Sellwood Gap – and specifically the block adjacent to the Springwater Trail that the committee has been planning for open-space amenities: The “Wildflower Meadow” design for the block is the final choice, as a result of exhaustive involvement of the community in the selection process. Rod Wojtanik, a former PP&R employee who is now with Metro, but is also a resident of the neighborhood, gave a report on the Sellwood Gap process of the Springwater Trail.

Karen Tam was next, giving a report from our newly reactivated Crime Committee. Rodney Pfluger and Karen Tam have been picking up litter on the street, using buckets and orange vests obtained from the SWBA – the Sellwood Westmoreland Business Alliance business association. She went on to discuss traffic safety issues, and the goals of the committee. As a summary, the overall goal of the committee is to have a safe and vibrant neighborhood.

President Stefanick added that there has been a rise in petty theft – and she reminded those present to lock their cars, and keep any objects in their cars out of sight, to avoid any incentive for miscreants to break in. If we want to develop the Neighborhood Watch program here, the city can help, she reminded.

The last committee to report of the evening was from the Sundae in the Park Committee, and the report was made by its Chair, Nancy Walsh. The poster/flyer for this year's party in Sellwood Park on August 2nd has just been completed and approved, designed by Gray Whelan, and Nancy distributed copies of it. It will not be displayed in stores and other locations as a poster until July. She gave the 35-year history of this SMILE neighborhood party on the first Sunday in August, which in the last few years has included an evening component (and a movie at dusk) from Portland Parks and Recreation.

SMILE's part of Sundae in the Park is noon until 5 pm; PP&R's part is 5:30 pm until the end of the movie. We have a series of live music acts and other activities; PP&R provides more live music and activities in the evening, and then starts the movie at dusk. This year's movie is "Frozen – Sing-a-Long edition", which – as the Oscar-winning movie of the year last year, and the biggest-grossing animated movie in history – should be a very good way to end the day. Nancy listed the entertainment acts booked by Dana Beck, and reminded that Southeast Portland Rotary Club members scoop 75-cent ice cream sundaes from noon until the ice cream runs out, which is usually around 5 pm, or a little after. SMILE buys the ice cream and pays the live acts in its portion of the day, and proceeds from the ice cream sales benefit "The Loaves and Fishes People".

The last agenda item was a presentation by a gentleman named Rick Brown from an organization called "350 PDX", and he was present to discuss climate change. He gave statistics on temperature and atmospheric gases, criticized fossil-fuel-oriented energy companies, and urged anyone holding stock in these companies to sell it. His organization opposes a proposed Portland propane terminal, which he says the Mayor also opposes. He did not specifically cite or address Sellwood and Westmoreland by name in his presentation. There followed some discussion during a question-and-answer period.

No quorum was reached at any point during this meeting, so it was not possible to make or pass a motion concerning the minutes of the May 6 SMILE General Public Meeting. An attempt to do so will be made at the July 1 General Meeting.

The meeting was declared adjourned by President Corinne Stefanick at 8:47 pm.