

SMILE GENERAL PUBLIC MEETING

September 2, 2015

SMILE Station

Blog

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Procedural

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OFFICERS PRESENT: Corinne Stefanick, President; Gail Hoffnagle, Vice President;
Pat Hainley, Treasurer; Eric Norberg, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Walsh; Miriam Erb; David Schoellhamer;
Nanci Champlin; Steve Szigethy; Bob Burkholder

President Stefanick called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, and asked those present to introduce themselves, around the room. She reminded that the Board had voted at its June Board meeting to dispense with the August General and Board meetings this year, and thus this was the next General meeting after the July 1 meeting. She went on to announce that two Board members were moving out of the Sellwood-Westmoreland neighborhood, and thus had resigned their seats – Mat Millenbach and Tenisha Caceres. Consequently, we have two Board openings for which we will conduct an election at the next General meeting on October 7, to complete those two Board terms. The term of Caceres' seat, which itself was filled at the May election by Caceres for the second year resigned by a Board member, will expire in April, 2016. The term of Millenbach's seat will expire in April of 2017.

Stefanick then invited a review of the minutes of the July 1 General Meeting. After the review was completed and the presence of a quorum was confirmed, Miriam Erb moved that both sets of minutes be accepted as presented, and Steve Szigethy seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

The meeting began with an announcement by Board member Bob Burkholder about a one-hour presentation available to neighbors on "getting ready for the Big One". He is seeking neighbors living along various street to have a "street meeting" on emergency preparedness. Actually, the complete program consists of three sessions. The first is conducted by the Red Cross, and is an hour long; the second is on types of emergency preparedness kits, water storage, etc.; and the third is on how to organize, train, and equip neighbors to respond in an emergency. "Host a party, become informed, make a plan, and share this information," he urged. He suggested viewing the "emergency preparedness" page on the SMILE blog website. Bob and Gail Hoffnagle are heading this effort.

Elizabeth Milner, Co-Chair of the S.N.A.C. committee, announced that Sunday, September 27, is the date for the Salmon Celebration as well as the celebration of the restoration of Westmoreland Park, at the park. It will be held on the same day that the popular Portland "Sunday Parkways" PDOT event will include our neighborhood, so there will be a lot of extra pedestrian and bicycle traffic that day, and some streets will have reduced access. Residents affected by this will be advised in advance of the restrictions. Milner added that S.N.A.C. is seeking volunteers to assist with the celebration in Westmoreland Park. A free commemorative shirt is included for volunteers!

Ms. Marty Stockton, Southeast Division Liaison for the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, was next to appear for a quick update on the progress of the Portland Comprehensive Plan. Last week, on August 24th, the “recommended draft” of the twenty-year Comprehensive Plan was put online. The plan is now in its final stages. A hearing is set on it for November 19 at 2 pm. Comments are invited via the “Map App” online. On September 21 a new draft zoning map for commercial areas will be released; in October a zoning map for residential and park areas will follow. The first hearing on the zoning changes will be January 12; the hope is that the City Council will adopt the plan by June.

Mark Wells, a former police officer and today a Crime Prevention Coordinator and Community Organizing Specialist for the Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement, stood to discuss “how to start a Neighborhood Watch or Foot Patrol”. He commented that Portland is a safe city, but we do have a drug problem and a property crime problem. Neighbors who know and care about each other are a potent force against crime. Wells went into detail on the process of starting a Neighborhood Watch, and how a Foot Patrol differs from that – and invited anyone interested in starting either one or the other to get in touch with him. A Neighborhood Watch can be scaled to fit the needs of the people involved, and there are plenty of resources available. He answered questions, and left his business card. His contact information: 503/823-2781; mark.wells@portlandoregon.com.

Local resident Vikki DeGaa joined with Barbara Strunk of the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood in Northeast Portland to give a talk on home demolition and replacement. Strunk has made a statistical study of the issue. She pointed out that the median house price is well over \$400,000 currently in Sellwood and Westmoreland as well as Beaumont-Wilshire. She disclosed that home demolitions in Beaumont-Wilshire are declining this year – she is not sure why, but “it could be that the market is pricing itself out there”. However, she observed, first-time homebuyers generally cannot outbid developers for the city’s remaining smaller houses. Vikki DeGaa then showed a similar statistical analysis for Sellwood-Westmoreland. The pair answered a few questions at the end of their presentation.

Last on the agenda was Jennifer Koozer, a Sellwood resident and a spokesperson for TriMet. She was present to update us on the plans for the opening of the “Orange” MAX light rail line on Saturday, September 12. Adjustments to all the other MAX lines’ schedules have already been made to accommodate the new line, and changes to bus schedules will take place on September 13th or before. Line 99 from Clackamas County will be rerouted down S.E. Tacoma Street, and will cross the new Sellwood Bridge enroute to downtown and back, once the new bridge is open. But, Line 99 will only run during weekday drive-times.

Koozer gave statistics on travel times on MAX, and amenities at the new stations. The schedules for the new lines and the altered bus lines are online, as is a “trip planner”. MAX service will stop at 11:30 pm weekdays and at 12:30 am weekends, but a later bus will run to help people get home. Direct service to and from downtown serving the north end of Westmoreland and the west side of Brooklyn ends – on bus lines 31, 32, and 33 – Sept. 13. Steve Szigethy complimented Koozer on how well she has kept the neighborhood informed in the MAX process. Comment on TriMet’s future plans online, at: <http://future.trimet.org>.

Bob Burkholder moved adjournment; Corinne Stefanek seconded; and although those present got up to begin leaving immediately, the motion appeared to pass at 9:03 pm.