

SMILE GENERAL PUBLIC MEETING

November 4, 2015

SMILE Station

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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: Miriam Erb; David Schoellhamer; Bob Burkholder

President Stefanick called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm, and asked those present to introduce themselves, in turn, around the room.

Stefanick next asked those present to review the minutes distributed from the October 7 General Public Meeting. A clarification needed in an item in the minutes was noted by David Schoellhamer. Ed Nuñez moved that the minutes, as amended, be approved; Gail Hoffnagle seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

Two police officers were present from Central Precinct at President Stefanick's request; both have been patrolling our neighborhood for quite a while. One identified himself as Officer Roger Walsh, and he did most of the speaking. After a brief period of discussing crime trends in the neighborhood and some details of their patrolling, Officer Walsh asked for questions. A woman expressed concern about speeding and red-light-running. She was advised she can call the Central Precinct desk (at 503/823-0097) and request extra patrol activity in problem spots; "the best thing for traffic enforcement is a police car in your rear-view mirror." The officers made it clear that the current understaffing of the police department makes it difficult to provide good police coverage here; there are some hours when there is only one, or no, officer patrolling anywhere in Inner Southeast.

The officers asked residents to call and report to the Central Precinct desk (at 503/823-0097) when they are going to be out of town, or where there is a tendency for nuisance activity at certain times; "I can park there, and do my reports." Concern was expressed about bike theft; the officers responded that people must report stolen bikes by serial number if the police are to identify and return them when they are recovered. "Every bike has a serial number. If nothing else, take a picture of the serial number of your bike with your phone, and keep it." The officers received applause as they ended their appearance, and were asked to return to future meetings if they can.

President Stefanick announced as the next item of business an election to replace the two Board members who have moved out of the Sellwood-Westmoreland neighborhood, and thus have resigned their seats – Mat Millenbach and Tenisha Caceres. The term of Caceres' seat, which itself was filled at the May election by Caceres in place of a previous resigned Board member, will expire in April, 2016. The term of Millenbach's seat will expire in April of 2017.

Two announced candidates were present at the meeting: Elaine O’Keefe and Joel Leib. Stefanick asked each to rise and introduce himself and herself to the SMILE members present.

Elaine said she has been a resident of the neighborhood for five years, and is retired. She was involved with previous neighborhoods in which she has lived, in Forest Grove and Bethany. She has worked in local government professionally in San Francisco, and has been with the Federal Reserve Bank, and with Washington County. Most recently she was with the City of Portland, involved in budgeting within the Fire Marshall’s office.

Joel said he is a Sellwood resident, and has been a regular at SMILE meetings. He moved here from New York City, and has raised his family here.

It was then established that there was nobody else present who was seeking to be a candidate. A representative of Southeast Uplift was present to supervise the election, which – inasmuch as there were only two candidates running for two seats – was deemed to be satisfactory if done by a show of hands, since a quorum of SMILE members was present.

President Stefanick asked SMILE members present to raise their hands “if both candidates were acceptable”: The result appeared to be unanimous. When asked if anyone voted no, or alternatively was abstaining, no hands went up. The two candidates were announced as elected.

President Stefanick said she had discussed with the two candidates which one would be willing to accept the shorter-term seat, and Elaine O’Keefe was willing to accept the Tenisha Caceres seat, which will expire in May of 2016. Thus Joel Leib will receive the Mat Millenbach seat, which will expire in May of 2017.

Next on the agenda was an appearance by Maija Spencer and Connie Johnson of Portland Parks and Recreation, to report on the plans to repair the roof of the poolhouse at the Sellwood Swimming Pool. This roof had been marked “urgent to replace” back in 2008, Spencer said, but repairing it only became possible with the recently approved Parks Bond. Construction will start on September 7, 2016, and should be done by Christmas.

Eric Norberg asked if the auxiliary building just north of the poolhouse might be included in this project; the answer was no. He pointed out that the roof there is in such poor condition that the County now requires awnings over the ice cream serving area below it, during Sundae in the Park, to keep bits of the roof from falling into the ice cream. The duo agreed that that roof was in even worse condition than the poolhouse roof, but it is not included in the currently-funded plans. The pair offered the suggestion that if not all the funds are expended on the identified repairs citywide, some money might remain for more repairs, and that building would be a good candidate for such repairs.

Spencer and Johnson went on to discuss materials and construction plans, with illustrations, for the poolhouse. The project will include seismic upgrades to the building itself, and additional repairs needed to the structure.

The final presentation on the agenda was from “Enhabit”, previously called “Clean Energy Works”, a nonprofit organization. Jessica Bond was present to speak about it. This new name was instituted on October 1. The organization works directly with homeowners to promote energy efficiency – and now also promotes solar power, radon measurement and mitigation, and seismic retrofitting. The organization also offers homeowners, as before, a no-cost, no-obligation home assessment.

Nanci Chapin not being present, President Stefanick on her behalf informed the room that the S.N.A.C. committee had received a \$12,000 Metro grant to help implement SMILE’s “Sellwood Gap” project along the Springwater Trail.

Ed Nuñez offered the observation that Bob Burkholder had put on outstanding “Preparing For Disaster” sessions, and he would recommend attending these to all neighborhood homeowners. Gail Hoffnagle has also been involved in presenting these.

A SMILE member present spoke up to say she had understood that the Portland Comprehensive Plan would be discussed at this meeting. President Stefanick expressed regret that she had misunderstood that, in fact, this discussion was part of the SMILE Land Use Committee meeting in this same room, 6-7:15 pm this evening. The woman briefly discussed her issues with city policy.

There being no other business, either on the agenda or offered from those present, President Stefanick declared the meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.