

SMILE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

December 9, 2015

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Elaine O’Keefe, Miriam Erb, Steve Szigethy; Bob Burkholder; David Schoellhamer; Joel Leib

President Stefanick called the Special Board Meeting to order at 7:32 pm, and stated the announced purpose of the meeting – to consider resubmitting our previous testimony to the city concerning the “street vacation” of a strip of S.E. Grand Avenue on the east side of the paved street, in an unimproved hillside portion of the street easement, which the city has proposed to return to the adjacent property owner, Diane Richardson.

The previous testimony:

RWA File No.7790

On July 16, 2014, the Board of SMILE, the Sellwood Westmoreland neighborhood association, discussed the PBOT Street Vacation request by Diana Richardson for the above-referenced property. The SMILE Board voted 9 to 0 (with one abstention) to ask PBOT to put this request on hold, but not to dismiss his request, until such time as construction on the Sellwood Bridge is completed, and/or more definite plans for her adjacent property are available.

The proposal is coming up before the Portland Sustainability Commission next Tuesday, one day before our next Board meeting, thus necessitating the Special Board meeting in advance of that if SMILE is going to resubmit, or to reconsider, its prior testimony in this matter.

David Schoellhamer, Chair of the SMILE Land Use Committee, presented a series of slides (incorporated into these minutes by reference), detailing the proposal and the process, by way of providing background on this issue for the Board.

The proposed vacation is on the undeveloped property just east of a bioswale and the curb and wall at the east side of the finished part of this dead-end street – a street which, for motor vehicles is primarily used for parking, and otherwise provides pedestrian and bicycle access between Tacoma and Spokane Streets. The proposed “street vacation” portion of the easement has a maximum width of 17 feet, and it tapers down from that – between the retaining wall, and a chain link fence defining the private property line to the east of the wall.

Schoellhamer pointed out that the connection path from Tacoma Street onto the closed end of Grand Avenue has been installed and completed since our previous testimony was submitted. Both the city and the county, as well as all potentially involved agencies and

utilities, have indicated “no objection” to this street vacation; only SMILE is on record as having reservations about it.

There followed much question-and-answer discussion involving Board members, Schoellhamer, Diane Richardson (the applicant), and others in attendance, on details of this situation and proposal – covering city property law, as pertains to streets as easements, and many other details. This conversation continued until 8:46 pm, conducted as requested by President Stafanick in a cordial and respectful fashion.

At this point in the meeting, Eric Norberg offered a motion that SMILE register no objection to the proposed street vacation, and Bob Burkholder seconded the motion. The discussion continued. The question was called by President Stefanick at 9:00 pm; the subsequent Board vote was 6 yes, 3 no, and 1 abstention. The motion carried.

There being no other business at this Special Board Meeting of SMILE, Pat Hainley moved the meeting be adjourned. Miriam Erb seconded the motion; and, with an apparently unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.