

SMILE BOARD MEETING

December 16, 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: Elaine O'Keefe; Nanci Champlin, Miriam Erb, Steve Szigethy; Bob Burkholder; David Schoellhamer; Joel Leib

President Stefanick called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm, and began the meeting by asking for self-introductions by all the Board members, as well as the spectators around the room.

Stefanick asked that the Board review the minutes of the November 21 Board meeting and the December 9 Special Board Meeting; there being no corrections or omissions noted for either set of minutes, Elaine O'Keefe moved that both sets of minutes be approved as submitted, and Steve Szigethy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

First on the agenda was an introduction of Emily Pinkstaff, new Sellwood Westmoreland Business Alliance (SWBA) President, who is also community coordinator at the Sellwood New Seasons Market. She commented that she would like to see a SMILE Board member on the SWBA Board. She said that New Seasons employees are eager to get involved in the community. The monthly Board meeting of SWBA will take place tomorrow morning at 9 am at SMILE Station; everyone is invited. Corinne Stefanick remarked that she would attend, and Eric Norberg expected to as well.

Mike Pullen was next to rise, accompanied by Ms. Casey Cooper, both of whom had come to update SMILE on the Sellwood Bridge project. Mike said that Saturday, February 27, is the date that has been chosen for the Sellwood Bridge opening party (it could slip by a week or two due to weather or unforeseen delays, but he does not expect it to). The bridge would close on Friday to set up the party, and then after some reconfiguration over the weekend the new bridge would be open for traffic on the following Monday. Mike apologized for this party taking place in the winter, and he hoped weather would be reasonably good that day.

Pullen said that a second party will take place in late September, when PDOT plans a second Sunday Parkways in our neighborhood – this time including a crossing of the new Sellwood Bridge as part of the route. As for the upcoming February 27th celebration, the logistics of the event were discussed at length, and promotional and festive ideas were offered. The county would like to involve local residents as much as possible, since they have been most affected by the construction of the county's new bridge. Pullen concluded by saying that three shifts of volunteers are needed for setup, operation, and breakdown of the February 27 bridge party. Each of these shifts would involve three to four hours of work.

Before concluding, Pullen brought up and addressed the matter of the speed limit to be set on the new bridge. It will be 35 MPH, as it was with the old bridge – but the public art to be installed at the east end of the bridge is designed to slow drivers somewhat as they approach Tacoma Street (which has a 25 MPH limit), and the stoplight at 6th (which will stop traffic periodically). A radar speed reader at the east end for those coming off the bridge is a possibility, he said. And the county will ask for a speed study in the summertime, which could eventually result in the bridge speed limit being reduced – but there are no guarantees.

Gail Hoffnagle arose to recap SMILE's recent disaster preparedness seminars, financed by a Southeast Uplift grant, planned to inform up to 50 blocks (40 blocks have received presentations so far). She and her colleague in this effort, Bob Burkholder, would like to seek an additional grant to expand the project; such a grant would cover printing costs and an overnight preparedness exercise in Sellwood Park. Eric Norberg made a motion that SMILE endorse the effort for an additional grant, and Pat Hainley seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

Nanci Champlin proposed an itemized budget for the cleanup of SMILE Station's "rain garden" on the east side of our property, as well as the Oaks Bottom Overlook "pocket park" landscaping. She suggested a year-by-year arrangement for this with Ninebark, LLC, with an annual evaluation of the work done, and potential annual renewal. Gail Hoffnagle remarked that SMILE currently operates at a deficit, and we cannot afford to add to our maintenance costs, and she suggested possibly returning the SMILE rain garden to the former low-maintenance landscaping. Further discussion by Board members followed. President Corinne Stefanick suggested SMILE volunteers could maintain these gardens through the winter, and then reevaluate. No further action taken on this item at this time.

Last to appear was David Schoellhamer, Chair of the SMILE Land Use Committee. The Portland City Council is accepting testimony on Comprehensive Plan items through January 7th only, and there are four items on which testimony has been approved by the Land Use Committee for forwarding to the SMILE Board for approval. (1 is a correction, plus 3 new testimony items).

First was the correction; the Board had previously approved the "South 13th" testimony, but subsequently it was found to have had errors in the table that was part of the testimony. The testimony was now being presented to the Board with the errors corrected. Pat Hainley moved the previous testimony be rescinded, and the new testimony be approved. Gail Hoffnagle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The first new testimony concerned the "Sellwood Bridgehead". SMILE opposes a change of designation at the east end of the new bridge from "Mixed Use – Neighborhood Center" to "Mixed Use – Civic Corridor", a designation not otherwise used in our neighborhood, and one which would permit more intense development. Eric Norberg moved this testimony be approved for submission, and Gail Hoffnagle seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 10 yes and 1 no.

The second new testimony concerned "North Westmoreland". Landowner Jeff Bachrach at the last minute has submitted a request to have two properties, of the many the city has proposed downzoning, retain their existing "RH High Density" zoning. In the proposed

testimony, SMILE opposes this request, pointing out that the public process that preceded this request offered many opportunities to present this request and receive public comment on it – but it was not presented at those times, but only now, at the last minute, and without public comment. Eric Norberg moved SMILE submit this testimony; Miriam Erb seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

The third and final new testimony presented to the Board related to proposals from Brummell Enterprises concerning designations for properties along S.E. 17th. The testimony says that SMILE is unable either to endorse or oppose these proposals from Brummell Enterprises without a public process, which has not taken place. The testimony goes on to say that SMILE submits this testimony to show that the ideas proposed intrigue us and we are not indifferent to them, and we want to work with Brummell Enterprises in undertaking a public process to obtain input on them. Steve Szigethy made a motion that SMILE accept and forward this testimony, and Elaine O’Keefe seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Schoellhamer concluded his presentation by briefly reporting on a previous application from an “Air BnB” participant seeking authorization for four units, rather than the two he currently has; PBOT has concluded parking is an issue on S.E. Spokane, where this property is located, and indicated it will only approve three units as a result. There will be a hearing on this in late January, and David is willing to appear to explain the “Good Neighbor Agreement” between SMILE and this applicant, if the Board has no objection. No objection was raised. Schoellhamer said that since the SMILE Board did not vote on the Good Neighbor Agreement, it was his impression that he did not need to seek Board approval to appear at the hearing, but he wanted to give the Board an opportunity to respond to his desire to do so anyway.

There being no other business on the agenda or offered at the meeting, Pat Hainley moved the meeting be adjourned, and Nanci Champlin seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 10 yes, and 1 abstention (possibly due to inattention). The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 pm.