

SMILE BOARD MEETING

January 20, 2016

SMILE Station

Blog

www.SellwoodMoreland.org <<>>

Procedural

www.SMILErecords.org

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, Nancy Walsh; Bob Burkholder; David Schoellhamer; Joel Leib

President Stefanick called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm, and began the meeting by asking for self-introductions from all the Board members present, as well as spectators around the room.

She then proceeded to announce that the Parks Department seems to be showing some interest in the possibility of acquiring the Boys and Girls Club property, which could serve as a new Community Center in our neighborhood. She asked the Board if it is interested in expressing some support for Parks acquiring it? (The property has now been put on the market by a large business real estate firm.) A separate issue of concern is that Nancy Walsh attended a city budget hearing at St. Philip Neri Church in the HAND neighborhood, in which Sellwood Community Center has once again appeared on a “potential cut list”. Elaine O’Keefe commented that this exercise, involving tentative cut lists, is a prescribed annual procedure, and “may not be too concerning”. Vigorous discussion followed.

Former SMILE President Kevin Downing was present, and a question was posed to him: Could the old Sellwood Community Center, which is on the National Historic Register as a result of efforts by SMILE, actually be sold by Parks, and the building be removed from the site? Kevin said that its Historic listing would slow, but would not prevent, such a process. However, he pointed out, that particular property is not zoned for commercial use at present. He added that the city has never disclosed the condition of that property to SMILE, even though we had requested it. Kevin gave new Board members the background of SMILE’s Community Center Endowment Fund (a copy of the documentation is part of these minutes, by reference). Kevin concluded his remarks by outlining some deeply thought practical alternatives for the current Community Center and its building.

Pat Hainley moved that SMILE write a letter to the city asking for a “seat at the table” for any negotiations by the Portland Parks Department for the Boys and Girls Club property on S.E. Milwaukie Avenue in Westmoreland – to include the sentiment, “we have resources, and are concerned.” Gail Hoffnagle seconded the motion, which then carried unanimously. It was determined that Kevin Downing and Corinne Stefanick will write the letter.

Stefanick asked the Board to review the minutes of the December 16 Board meeting; a spelling error on page three was noted and corrected. Miriam Erb moved the minutes be

approved as amended, Nancy Walsh seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

Gail Hoffnagle next asked for the Board's approval of her grant application, seeking funding to complete the series of Emergency Preparedness classes she and Bob Burkholder have been presenting for sections of Sellwood and Westmoreland. Eric Norberg moved the Board approve her submitting the application, which she had already presented to the Board for review; Miriam Erb seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Gaylen Beatty, a local resident and the founder of the Backyard Habitat Program in 2006, which she now runs for the Columbia Land Trust, in cooperation with the Audubon Society, was next to appear. She had led the renovation of the north side and east side garden at SMILE Station in 2009, and she showed a slide presentation about it. She advised that such gardens cannot be left unmaintained. Although Nancy Walsh has voluntarily and repeatedly done maintenance work in it, Beatty said it still needed to be "cleaned up", and "an investment is needed to do that".

Gail Hoffnagle suggested involving the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, which has a class on maintaining such gardens. Corinne suggested that perhaps SMILE could apply for a grant for this needed yard maintenance. Pat Hainley contributed the thought that instead, SMILE needs to develop a maintenance plan – a practical and workable maintenance plan that we can and will follow; and we could use such a one-time grant to play for the development of a "one-time permanent plan".

Emily Pinkstaff of the Sellwood New Seasons Market, who is also the new President of the Sellwood Westmoreland Business Alliance business association, was present, and said that her store's staff could volunteer to help with the maintenance of this "Backyard Habitat" garden at SMILE Station that this permanent plan could mandate, as part of an ongoing community service program that New Seasons employees engage in.

Elaine O'Keefe moved that SMILE apply for the grant as Pat Hainley had outlined it, and Miriam Erb and Bob Burkholder simultaneously seconded the motion, which carried without objection.

To conclude the meeting, Eric Norberg pointed out that SMILE is still operating on the unapproved annual budget submitted to the Board back at the start of our fiscal year last October, and he moved that the Board approve this budget. Norberg pointed out that the budget, thus approved, could still be explained for, and modified by, the Board. Nancy Walsh seconded the motion. The motion carried with 8 yes votes, 3 abstentions, and no negative votes.

A future in-depth discussion on SMILE income, expenses, etc., with Pat Hainley, was requested by, and promised to, the Board – possibly to be held at the February Board meeting. Pat said he is always ready to do this anytime.

There being no other business, Pat Hainley moved the meeting be adjourned, and Miriam Erb seconded the motion. At 9:16 pm, the motion carried with evident unanimity.