

SMILE GENERAL PUBLIC MEETING

February 3, 2016

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: David Schoellhamer; Bob Burkholder; Nancy Walsh; Joel Leib; Nanci Champlin; Elaine O'Keefe

President Stefanick called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm, noting the presence of a quorum, although many present had not yet signed the attendance sheet in the back of the room, and were again asked to do that; and then she asked those present to introduce themselves in turn, around the room. She requested a review of the January 6 General Meeting minutes. Ed Nunez moved the minutes be approved as submitted, and Nancy Walsh seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Stefanick went on to make several announcements. Concerning the plans by the regional Boys and Girls Clubs to sell their Westmoreland club property, the SMILE Board with the help of Past SMILE President Kevin Downing, has written and sent a letter to Portland Parks and Recreation encouraging them to buy the property for an updated Sellwood Community Center – and asking that SMILE have a seat at the table for any such negotiations. We have also expressed concern about the latest potential budget cuts for the old Sellwood Community Center – a false saving for the city, since the Center makes PP&R more money than it costs to run it; these concerns were expressed to City Commissioner Amanda Fritz as well. There are three city budget meetings coming up, and Stefanick encouraged those present to attend one or more, and to speak out, if moved to do so.

She announced that the new *Sunset Magazine* very positively singles out the Sellwood-Westmoreland neighborhood in Portland!

She also commented that the homeless situation is currently a big issue for us. Tomorrow night, the Brentwood-Darlington neighborhood is holding a public meeting on the issue; she will go, and hopes others in the neighborhood will too.

Stefanick said that the balance of our meeting tonight would be devoted to reports from SMILE committees, and we do have a new ad-hoc committee: The SMILE Communications Committee, chaired by Elaine O'Keefe. Elaine arose, and said she wanted to start this assignment by updating the main SMILE website/blog. She will later go on to oversee the development of a new logo for SMILE, along with signage, letterheads, etc. First, though, will be the website, which she wants to be simple, and easy to navigate and maintain. She would like to focus on current events, and also wants many links to other website resources. She wants to promote the listserv, though she doesn't like listservs – yet, we need this one for now she said. She wants a focus on self-help on the website, and wants to promote the

rental of SMILE Station and Oaks Pioneer Church. “Carmen is the technical expert and will work on that part.” Elaine wants to make sure each committee is well-represented on the website, with all relevant information to facilitate engaging the committee by anyone interested. She wants to expand SMILE’s ability to reach the neighborhood it serves; Nancy Walsh pointed out that the SMILE newsletter in each issue of THE BEE already reaches most homes in the neighborhood, so that’s a good start.

David Schoellhamer, Chair of the SMILE Land Use Committee, was next to report. To update those present, he said the committee is involved in permit applications, developments, and the planning process. “500 units are in the pipeline for development”; the committee has hosted developers who have interacted with the public about their plans, letting neighbors have their say – and they sometimes modify their plans as a result of the feedback. He observed that industrially-zoned properties used for residential development require one parking place for every two units, and developers are now looking toward using “stacking systems” to park the most cars in the smallest practical space.

Schoellhamer said that if developers are meeting code for the zoning of the properties they are developing, SMILE gets no input – we are notified, and get involved, only when variances are sought. But we still hope to have even the developers who are building to code voluntarily meet the committee and present on their plans.

Schoellhamer reported that three adjacent properties in addition to the property occupied by the former Blush strip club at 5125 S.E. McLoughlin Boulevard have been listed for \$4.9 million by a commercial real estate firm.

And, he pointed out that SMILE and the committee have been offering considerable testimony on matters relating to our neighborhood in the Portland Comprehensive Plan process; the City Council is now weighing details of the Plan, and his committee is monitoring that and will participate. Mixed-use designation proposals also have the committee’s attention.

Nanci Champlin, as Chair of the SMILE Stewardship of Natural Amenities Committee (SNAC), reported on what the committee has been up to. This includes working on the celebration at Westmoreland Park. It has led the effort to create the Oaks Bottom Overlook pocket park at Bybee and 13th, and improvement of the adjacent property; and the Sellwood Gap project. She gave details of these, and future plans.

Scott Kelly, Chair, reported for the Transportation Committee. The committee has been giving input about the city transportation system plan, and the 6th Avenue signal forthcoming at the conclusion of the Sellwood Bridge replacement project, and has also given input in plans to improve the Milwaukie Avenue intersection with S.E. Mitchell Street in Westmoreland.

In addition, it has been involved in the 19th Avenue bicycle greenway project. It is also working to implement solutions for the most serious of the pedestrian safety issues identified in the SMILE neighborhood survey, and is participating in the “community-initiated trail program for unimproved streets” in the City of Portland. The committee is a resource for issues relating to the sidewalk encroachment permitting process, and the rules

for these. A Reedway pedestrian overcrossing over McLoughlin Boulevard and the Union Pacific tracks, to connect S.E. 23rd and S.E. 28th, continues to be a long-term goal.

The last to present was Nancy Walsh – the Chair of THREE of our committees: SMILE’s Church Committee, the SMILE Station Committee, and the Sundae in the Park Committee. She said this is the slow time of the year for Oaks Pioneer Church bookings, but it will start picking up around Valentine’s Day. She added that there was a church open house last week, which drew 30-40 visitors; some had been en route to or from the bridal show at Oaks Park, but many were neighbors of the church who had not seen its interior before. Master Gardeners will be pruning the rose bushes at the church in March. We need a hydrologist to address problems with the water sprinkler system there; water pools in places on the lawn.

As for SMILE Station, the building seats as many as 85 to 90 people comfortably, and has an industrial kitchen – “spread the word”: It’s a great and economical meeting place to rent.

And as for “Sundae in the Park”, the neighborhood celebration on the first Sunday in August at Sellwood Park will be on August 7 this year, with our part of the day being noon until 5 pm. PP&R continues the celebration from 5 till dusk, at which point they show a movie on their outdoor screen in the park. We have just put in a request for “Star Wars – The Force Awakens” as that movie for this year, but in the event it is not available to us (although it was on the list provided by PP&R), we have requested up to five alternates. We are getting started on the planning for the event, which includes a monthly meeting at SMILE Station on the second Wednesday evening of each month at 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend; everyone is welcome to get involved – in the planning, or just in the presentation of the event on August 7th – and volunteers are needed!

To conclude the meeting, Gail Hoffnagle announced the SMILE would be represented in the candlelight memorial walk on the old Sellwood Bridge on Thursday, February 25, 7:30-8:30 pm – immediately after the bridge closes to traffic forever at 7 pm, and just before demolition of the old bridge begins, right after this memorial walk concludes. SMILE will also have a presence in the neighborhood celebration on the new Sellwood Bridge on Saturday, February 27, noon to 4 pm. After the five-day closure, the new Sellwood Bridge will open to traffic at 6 am on Tuesday, March 1.

President Stefanick revealed that our standing Crime Prevention Committee is once again inactive, although unfortunately not because crime has become inactive here. The Chair and the members have simply gotten involved in other things and left the committee. She said the committee is needed, and she is hoping to get it restarted soon – and anyone interested in addressing local crime issues as part of it should contact her.

There being nothing else on the agenda, or offered from the floor, Nancy Walsh moved the meeting be adjourned, and Gail Hoffnagle seconded the motion, which carried with apparent unanimity at 9:10 pm.