

SMILE General Public Meeting minutes

August 2, 2017

SMILE Station

Main Website

www.SellwoodMoreland.org

Procedural

www.SMILErecords.org

OFFICERS PRESENT: Gail Hoffnagle, Vice President; Pat Hainley, Treasurer;

Eric Norberg, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Palmer; Timothy DuBois; Elizabeth Milner;

Miriam Erb

Vice President Gail Hoffnagle – presiding officer, while President Joel Leib was on vacation – called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., and asked those present to introduce themselves, around the room. Although there were substantially more SMILE members present than signed in on the sheets at the door, there were not quite enough present to form a quorum, so review and acceptance of the minutes for the June and July SMILE General Meetings were postponed until the presence of a quorum at a subsequent General Meeting.

First on the agenda was State Representative Karin Powers, whose District 41 includes the Sellwood-Westmoreland neighborhood, and who was present to introduce herself at a SMILE meeting for the first time, and to review the recently-concluded legislative session in Salem. She introduced herself as a resident of Downtown Milwaukie, just south of Sellwood.

She entered the legislature at this session, newly elected, and facing a 1.8 billion dollar deficit. The legislature passed 860 bills; she herself sponsored a “sunshine bill” in association with representatives of the news media; several “sunshine” measures passed, she said. The adopted Transportation Package gives Portland an additional \$15,000,000, which the city will be allocating as it sees fit. There is new revenue for bike routes, including “Safe Routes to School”. The legislature, assisted by more tax revenues than had been expected, managed to close the budget deficit and balance the budget, using a variety of steps.

Powers said she was “on all three Environmental Committees” because of her environmental background. A general discussion between Powers and attendees followed, with Q and A on such subjects as healthcare, the quality of state administrators, the opioid epidemic in Oregon, out-of-network medical charges, and the upgrading of the earthquake-readiness of public buildings. David Schoellhamer brought up HB 2007, which sought to impose state regulations on local governments, and could have invalidated years of public process in Portland – “will this come back and confront us again?” Powers replied, “I would say yes.” She added that she did not agree with all of the features of the bill, which was shelved at adjournment – but, she said, it could be revived in the future. A Senate bill on the general subject did pass. There followed more questions and answers on environmental matters, and on the P.E.R.S.-funding problems confronting the state.

Next to appear was Teri Poppino, ONI Crime Prevention Coordinator, Central Eastside Portland. She started with crime statistics: Crime is up, year over years, in Sellwood; but this could at least partly be attributed to the effort to get more crime here reported to the police – and also, she said, crime statistic capturing methods have changed. That said, the three categories significantly higher here, year over year, were personal assaults, burglaries, and larcenies (thefts). It was unclear whether these statistics were for Sellwood only, as she was suggesting, or also included the Westmoreland part of our neighborhood. She added that crime is up all around the City of Portland this year, yet the crime level here is still lower than elsewhere. A general discussion followed, based upon this information.

Teri counseled, once again, that way to avoid car burglaries remains not leaving anything at all of possible value in sight within a car. Drug addicts will smash their way into a car to steal even just a CD or even more minor items, which they are hoping to be worth a few bucks in obtaining drugs. NOTHING of potential value should show within a car! She reminded us that we should report ANY crime; the number of police reports filed helps determine the allocation of patrol officers, and in our low-crime area we have fewer patrolling officers.

Teri left several information sheets on the table near the entrance of SMILE Station on crime-related topics (which are incorporated into these minutes by reference), some of which she said had been updated, or were new.

Last to appear at the meeting was Nancy Walsh, Chair of the ad-hoc SMILE Sundae in the Park Committee, to give final details for the 38th annual event, coming up this Sunday afternoon at Sellwood Park on S.E. 7th Avenue. Volunteers are very important, especially for the setup in the morning and the breakdown after 5 p.m., at which time the Portland Parks Department takes over to complete the festive day with more live music, and then a movie shown on a big outdoor screen at dusk. She urged those interested to show up to assist.

There being no other business on the agenda, or offered from the floor – and with no formal motion for adjournment possible due to the lack of a quorum – Vice President Gail Hoffnagle declared the meeting adjourned, at 9:05 p.m.