



Past SMILE President Corinne Stefanick was next to present. Our first “SMILE Open House” took place in 2015, at her instigation; and she plans a second one at SMILE Station on Sunday, April 29, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Most SMILE Committees have agreed to participate, and she hopes the Oaks Pioneer Church will be open during those hours also, so those interested in the facility for a wedding or special event can go on down and inspect it during that time. New Seasons Market in Sellwood will provide free refreshments; and Corinne is gathering prize coupons and other items from merchants for a drawing at the event. Some Q-and-A on details of the event followed.

President Leib invited Nancy Walsh, who had been there (with several others in the room, as it turned out,) to report on the City Budget Hearing last night in the David Douglas High Cafeteria. The Sellwood, Woodstock, and Fulton Community Centers were well-represented, and made an impressive appearance; the turnout was exceptional, with the cafeteria repeatedly closed to additional attendees when the 450-person fire code capacity was attained; when those invited to speak at the hearing had done so, they were invited to step out of the cafeteria to allow more of those still outside to come in. Nancy reported that Sellwood-Westmoreland and Woodstock had obtained over 3,000 signatures on petitions to the City Council seeking to keep the city’s four small Community Centers open (Hillside is the fourth one), and individual boxed copies of the entire petition had been presented to each of the City Commissioners present. “It was pretty inspiring last night,” she commented.

The next City Budget Hearing is on April 17 at 6:30 p.m. at Roosevelt High School, and Nancy said efforts are underway to assemble a carpool caravan to that distant location during the difficult “afternoon rush hour”. The discussion concluded with some Q-and-A about future steps before the final City Budget is presented in May.

Nancy Walsh concluded the meeting by announcing the annual SMILE Neighborhood Cleanup, coming up on Saturday, May 19 (third Saturday in May, as usual), in the south end of Westmoreland Park. This is the oldest cleanup of its kind in the state, and former SMILE President Kris Heiberg is again quarterbacking it this year. Volunteers are needed for all sorts of tasks, many of which do not require helping lift anything, and all volunteers will receive coffee, doughnuts, T-shirts, and lunch! There will be an orientation for volunteers that morning at the park at 8:30 a.m. just before the cleanup starts – which then runs to 2 p.m. The parameters of what can be accepted at the cleanup and what cannot (hazardous materials and building materials cannot, for example) are the same as last year. Volunteers should contact Kris at 503/969-5061. Free pickup is available ONLY for the disabled and for seniors unable to bring their trash to the cleanup themselves, and the number to call for that service is 503/794-8212. A small fee will be charged to everyone who has materials to dump.

There being no other business (Ronda Fast from the city was on the agenda, but had asked on the previous day to be rescheduled) – Bob Burkholder offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ed Nunez; the motion carried unanimously at 9:01 p.m.