



commented that “it will take more time than you think” to start restoring the community after a major disaster. “If you’re involved with Neighborhood Watch, you are getting to know your neighbors” and your neighborhood. And, disasters tend to encourage criminal activity, such as looting. In response to a comment that many police officers are retiring currently, Poppino agreed that they are retiring “en masse” right now because many are about the same age and joined the police force in the same general time frame, and the city has not been planning its hiring in such a fashion as to provide timely replacements for them all. Thus, the current number of Portland police officers is critically low, which does not help the crime-fighting effort either.

Next to offer an annual report was Suran Schen, a member of SMILE’s “SNAC” committee, appearing on behalf of the committee’s Chair, Elizabeth Milner, who had been at the Special Board Meeting prior to this meeting, but had not been able to stay for the General Meeting that followed. Schen outlined the committee’s various active projects, with two ongoing maintenance projects – the Oaks Bottom Overlook pocket park on the Bybee-13th curve, and the Springwater Meadows parkland next to the Springwater Trail in the “Sellwood Gap”. [Note: SMILE is also responsible for the Golf Junction pocket park at the south end of Sellwood, but that is maintained by other members of the Board.] SNAC will hold two more “Backyard Habitat” classes this summer to complete the use of the Metro grant. Schen briefly outlined the plan to preserve the property known as “Moreland Woods”, between Wilhelm’s Portland Memorial and Llewellyn Elementary School, as a public open space, through the new SMILE ad-hoc Moreland Woods Committee.

Bob Burkholder, Chair of the SMILE Emergency Preparedness Committee, gave its annual report. Bob and the committee are involved in the N.E.T. system in Portland, of which there are currently 30 local members. Disaster preparedness outreach is continuing in partnership with the Foster-Powell, Hayden Island, and Sunnyside neighborhoods. He joked that much of his planned presentation had already been presented by Teri Poppino. Some Q-and-A followed, involving those attending the meeting.

Nancy Walsh, Chair of the Sundae in the Park Committee (as well as the Oaks Pioneer Church Committee, and the “SMILE Station” Committee) arose briefly to remind that Sunday, August 5, is the date this year for SMILE’s neighborhood party – it’s also its “National Night Out Against Crime” party – in upper Sellwood Park; and we need community and Board volunteers to help us run it. Our part is from noon until 5 p.m., at which time the Parks Department takes over with live entertainment and a Movie in the Park at dusk – this year, “Star Wars – The Last Jedi” – which is sponsored by the Sellwood Westmoreland Business Alliance, whose new acronym is SMBA.

President Joel Leib announced that since the “first Wednesday” of July, the date set for the next SMILE General Meeting, falls on the 4th – the Independence Day holiday – that meeting will be cancelled, and the next General Meeting will be on Wednesday, August 1. However, there will be two SMILE Board Meetings before then: June 20 and July 18.

Suran Schen moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Simon Fulford seconded the motion, when then passed with evident unanimity at exactly 9:00 p.m. Since there might not have been a quorum present at that time, President Leib then himself announced the meeting as now adjourned, drawing it officially to a close.