

SMILE General Meeting minutes

October 3, 2018

SMILE Station

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Procedural

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OFFICERS PRESENT: Joel Leib, President; Gail Hoffnagle, Vice President; Pat Hainley, Treasurer; Eric Norberg, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Elaine O’Keefe; Julie Currin

President Joel Leib called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m., and began by asking those present to introduce themselves, around the room. Leib observed that a quorum of SMILE members had not yet been attained, and said that the approval of the minutes of the September 5th General Meeting would have to be postponed until such time as a quorum had been reached, or until the next General Meeting if not attained tonight.

First on the agenda was Multnomah County Commissioner, District 1 (our own district), Sharon Meieran – who had requested time at the meeting to report to her local constituency. She told us that she is, by profession, an Emergency Room doctor, and her special areas of interest and expertise involve vulnerable populations not currently being fully served (especially those with mental health issues, and the homeless). One of the reasons she ran for and was elected to this office, she said, was to try to make the mental healthcare system “work”; funding and funding use are obscure, and those with mental health problems are often warehoused instead of treated, due to the lack of coordinated procedures, care, and funding.

Meieran said that Multnomah County primarily is responsible for health, human services, corrections, and some infrastructure – such as bridges, such as the Sellwood Bridge, and the roads in unincorporated areas of the county. She then opened her segment of the meeting to questions from attendees, and was asked about what relationship there might be between the City of Portland, the Portland Police, and Multnomah County – and she responded that these entities cooperate, and there is a “coordinating body”, but this has not yet solved the problem of good reliable communications between these entities. And, she said, she would like to see more communication between the city and county on other issues – specifically homelessness, although there is an existing partnership on aspects of this issue.

The County addresses homelessness by providing emergency assistance, safety, and transitional shelters for portions of this population, she explained – but the ultimate solution is permanent housing for those seeking it or open to it. There was more Q and A on details of these issues. She cited the successful operation of the Willamette Center shelter on S.E. Milwaukie Avenue in Westmoreland as currently “one of the bright spots”.

Phil Richman, a Certified Financial planner with TenBridge Partners in downtown Portland, was next to appear at the request of SMILE President Joel Leib – for a semi-annual review

of the SMILE investment portfolio, of which 90% is composed of dedicated funds of the SMILE “Friends of Sellwood Community Center” Committee, and 10% is SMILE’s own funds. He presented a one-page summary of the year so far in this account (incorporated into these minutes by reference), and discussed details with those present. The account is up this year so far, and has appreciated very well since it was first opened a decade ago.

The meeting concluded, as scheduled on the agenda, with an Open Forum period. This segment began with a report from R. Corless, Chair of the SMILE Crime Prevention Committee, who earlier today attended a “Coffee With a Cop” informal meeting involving our police officers and local residents, at the Blue Kangaroo Coffee Shop in Sellwood; she found it informative, and was delighted to meet in person the officer with whom she had been communicating by phone. Asst. Captain Chris Davis told her he would like to come and visit a SMILE Meeting, and President Leib assured her he would be welcome.

The next two to speak had arrived from political advocacy committees to express positions on ballot measures in the November election. Ms. Gaylen Beatty of the “Portland Clean Energy Fund” arose to advocate passing the “Clean Energy Initiative” on the ballot. She was followed by Jake Foster of a group called “Defend Oregon”, who arose to advocate passing Measure 102, and defeating Measures 103, 104, 105, and 106.

At the conclusion of these advocacies, President Leib asked if anyone in the room wanted to present a contrasting or opposing view on any of these ballot measures. None was offered.

Ed Nunez then attempted to move adjournment, and Elaine O’Keefe attempted to second the motion – but, since a quorum had not yet been attained, no motion could be passed. Consequently, President Joel Leib himself declared the meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.