

# SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2018

SMILE Station

Main Website

[www.SellwoodMoreland.org](http://www.SellwoodMoreland.org)

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Procedural

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**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Joel Leib, President; Gail Hoffnagle, Vice President;  
Eric Norberg, Secretary

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Burkholder, Elaine O’Keefe, Tyler Janzen,  
Kevin Palmer, Elizabeth Milner, Simon Fulford, Kim Borcharding

President Joel Leib called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m., asking everyone present to introduce themselves, around the room. He then asked the Board to review the minutes of the September 19 Board Meeting. In the course of the review of the minutes, Board Members requested wording changes at several point in the minutes, after which Kevin Palmer moved the minutes be approved as amended, Simon Fulford seconded, and the motion carried with no abstentions or objections.

Gail Hoffnagle was first to speak, announcing that the previously-planned Haunted House at the Sellwood Pool House – intended to be a fundraiser for the Sellwood Community Center – had been ruled out by the Fire Marshall; the Pool House requires fire sprinklers if a Haunted House is to be held in it, although they are apparently not required for any other activity there, since it has never had any.

On another subject, Gail said that although she recently has been the SMILE delegate to Southeast Uplift’s Board, she has resigned from that, and if another Board Member would like to take her place at the Neighborhood Coalition’s table, the seat is open.

The next agenda item was led by Nancy Youlden, President of the Portland Pickleball Club, of which on this night there were several Sellwood members present, rising to continue the discussion of the organization’s plan to take one of the four Tennis courts in Sellwood Park (one of the two believed to be in better condition) and convert it into three Pickleball courts, while also “fixing up” the adjacent Tennis court to make it a really fine Tennis court.

As SMILE requested of the group at their September appearance at the SMILE Board Meeting, in the past month it performed considerable neighborhood outreach about this plan, and has carefully tracked usage of the Tennis courts there by Tennis players in the intervening month – finding roughly one Tennis player for every 25 Pickleball players over that period of time; she provided a bar graph to illustrate this. She pointed out that far more Pickleball players can be accommodated upon a single Tennis court than Tennis players can be on a Tennis court, and current usage of the Tennis courts in Sellwood Park by Tennis players seems rather minimal. She added that there are sixteen public Tennis courts within a three-mile radius of Sellwood Park, and no public Pickleball courts anywhere in the City of Portland. Youlden concluded by saying her group is prepared to fund the entire project if Portland Parks adopts it, and she asked for the SMILE Board’s endorsement of the plan.

There were a few Tennis advocates present who then spoke against this plan, one of whom produced a letter from a Tennis organization in Beaverton opposing any reduction in the number of Tennis courts in Sellwood Park – although the presenter of the letter did concede that they do need repair. Pickleball advocates said they were agreeable to having an entirely new set of Pickleball courts built elsewhere in Sellwood Park, if that were preferable. Then Tyler Janzen moved that SMILE endorse the plan of the Pickleball group, and Elizabeth Milner seconded; the vote was seven in favor and three abstaining, so the motion carried.

Next to appear was Eric Miller, the spokesman for the previously-presented plan to take the two “poor-condition” Tennis courts near the Sellwood Pool and convert those to two Futsal courts. He reminded the SMILE Board that he believes the Portland Timbers would fund this conversion project if the Portland Parks Department approves proceeding with it. He has 522 signatures on a petition in favor of this idea, to demonstrate local support. He, too, sought SMILE’s endorsement of the Futsal proposal. Simon Fulford made a motion to make such an endorsement, and Elizabeth Milner seconded it. In the discussion period Simon wanted it duly noted that SMILE is not in a position to do more than simply advocate what it thinks is a good idea originating in the community; and our role in making these endorsement is simply communicating that to Portland Parks and Recreation, which is the decision maker. The question was called, and the vote was eight in favor, and two abstentions. The motion carried.

Next on the agenda was Elizabeth Milner, Co-Chair of the SMILE S.N.A.C. Committee, who told the Board she wants SMILE to continue to have the Rain Garden at the rear of SMILE Station, as established by the Board several years ago; but it needs to have regular maintenance – twice a year might be enough, but volunteers alone are not getting it done – and paid maintenance is needed in her opinion. The woman who led the effort originally and oversaw the installation of the Rain Garden is no longer interested in coming to maintain it, she said. Gail Hoffnagle asked if we might not instead take it out, since it has gone to weeds, and landscape the area better for enhancing rentals of SMILE Station. No motion was made on this subject at this time.

Milner also reported that our “pocket park”, Oaks Bottom Overlook, on the Bybee Boulevard curve to S.E. 13th, will have its own signage soon, which will help make clear just what it is. Springwater Meadows, our project along the Springwater Trail west of 13th, will have its own signage, as well, soon.

As concerns “Moreland Woods”, just north of Wilhelm’s Portland Memorial, Milner said that Portland City Commissioner Fish is interested in potential Portland Parks acquisition of the property – particularly since it could include a path down to Oaks Bottom in the middle of a stretch where there is no such access. But now a complication has arisen: The owners of Portland Memorial, “Foundation Partners” of Florida, have decided they might now want to sell for development their other parking lot on S.E. 14th, and in that case might want to keep as much as a third of the Moreland Woods property for a small parking area for those coming for funerals. So the future of the effort to make a park of the wooded lot is unclear.

R. Corless followed with a brief report on behalf of the SMILE Crime Prevention Committee, which she heads. Kevin Palmer then moved the meeting’s adjournment, Bob Burkholder seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously at 8:48 p.m.