

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2019

SMILE Station

Main Website

www.SellwoodMoreland.org

<<>>

Procedural

www.SMILErecords.org

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Burkholder, Elaine O’Keefe, Simon Fulford, Elizabeth Milner, Kim Borcharding, Julie Currin

President Joel Leib called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m., asking that the Board Members present, and the SMILE members and others in attendance, publicly introduce themselves. He then asked the Board to review the minutes of the January 16 Board Meeting; after the review, Elaine O’Keefe moved the minutes be accepted as submitted; Simon Fulford seconded the motion; and the motion passed unanimously.

Joel introduced Rachel Broach, a neighborhood resident who is also a PCC student – who, with fellow students Phillip Stasz and Mike Stuhlmiller – was present this evening to interpret the meeting for the spectators in sign language, as an internship of their course of study. All three took turns interpreting the meeting for the deaf.

President Leib reminded those present of the annual SMILE Board Election, coming up as part of the General Meeting in May (which, this year, is on May 1). Four at-large two-year Board seats will be up for election/re-election; and all four one-year officer positions will, as well. Although, as required by SMILE ByLaws, a Nominating Committee will soon be appointed, anyone who meets at least one of the three criteria for SMILE membership – residing in the neighborhood, employed in the neighborhood, or owning property in the neighborhood – is welcome to run for a seat, and is encouraged to do so.

Jim Friscia was first to speak, in his role as the Chair of the new SMILE ad-hoc Summer Concerts Committee; he said he now has some committee member volunteers, and he revealed that a proposal mentioned to the SMILE Board a month ago, to a generally positive response, has now been accepted by the Parks Department: The concerts this year will move up the hill from Sellwood Riverfront Park to Sellwood Park. Just *where* in the park has not yet been determined, and that might not be determined until June; the Board suggested several possible spots for the concerts within the park. The necessary fundraising for the concerts will be starting tomorrow, Jim said.

Next was Gail Hoffnagle, SMILE Vice President, and also Chair of the SMILE Friends of Sellwood Community Center Committee. She informed the Board that the city is only accepting limited public testimony on the overall Parks budget, and – in a break from the past – the Portland Parks Department this year does NOT plan accepting ANY public testimony on items in its own budget. Instead, all budget recommendations are to come

from in-house committees, so small Community Centers (such as ours) are especially imperiled this year. As a result, she wrote (and distributed by e-mail to the Board prior to tonight's meeting) a letter to Mayor Wheeler, which she wanted the Board to approve and forward to the Mayor. Joel read the letter, for the benefit of the spectators at the meeting (it is incorporated into these minutes by reference). Joel Leib then moved that SMILE adopt the letter – and, with some possible minor edits, dispatch it to the Mayor. Eric Norberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Vikki DeGaa arose to continue the January Board discussion, and its adoption of the Main Street project – by asking the Board now to appropriate \$1,500 as our share of its funding. Elaine O'Keefe commented that we were getting a \$100,000 project for a very minor investment. Gail Hoffnagle made a motion to appropriate the \$1,500, Kim Borcharding seconded the motion – and the motion then carried unanimously.

Next to present was SMILE Land Use Committee Chair David Schoellhamer, who had two letters to present from the committee which the committee wanted the SMILE Board to accept and send to the city. Both letters had previously been distributed to the Board by e-mail, and Schoellhamer projected the letters onto the screen at the front of the meeting room for reference. The first was directed to the City Council, and it is incorporated into these minutes by reference; Gail Hoffnagle moved that this letter be accepted by the SMILE Board and be sent to the City Council; Kim Borcharding seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The second letter was directed to the City of Portland Land Use Hearings Officer, and concerned testimony about the former Christian Science Church property on S.E. 17th in Westmoreland (this letter is also incorporated into these minutes by reference). Elaine O'Keefe moved this letter be accepted by the Board and sent to the city; Eric and Simon simultaneously seconded the motion; and the motion also carried unanimously.

Last to speak was a neighborhood resident, Jory Olson, who identified himself as a “concerned neighbor”, and a resident here since 1991. He pointed out that, in an October of 1990 city inventory, a “Sellwood Scenic Corridor” had been identified, from S.E. Bybee Boulevard at 13th Avenue south to Sellwood Boulevard, thence down that street to S.E. 7th, and then southward past Sellwood Park. He said he was concerned that the scenic views of downtown and the West Hills along it are increasingly being obscured by trees, some of which are diseased or unstable. He is seeking a way to save good trees while removing bad ones, and thus preserve the views. Apparently a similar thinning of trees has taken place to enhance views on Terwilliger Boulevard in Southwest Portland. He is also suggesting the “Scenic Corridor” designation be changed to “View Corridor”, which imposes more height restrictions. He said he has spent \$20,000 in saving and planting trees, so he is “not anti-tree”. He wants to remove a conflict between the scenic overlay and the Scenic Corridor. An exchange of thoughts and information followed, between Mr. Olson and members of the Board. No Board action taken at this time; he was invited to keep the Board informed.

There being no other business on the agenda or introduced from the floor, Pat Hainley moved the meeting be adjourned, and Gail Hoffnagle seconded, after which the vote was unanimously in favor of adjourning at 9:08 p.m.