

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2019

SMILE Station

Main Website

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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: Bob Burkholder, Elaine O’Keefe, Simon Fulford, Kevin Palmer, Elizabeth Milner, Kim Borcharding, Tyler Janzen, Julie Currin

President Joel Leib called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m., asking that the Board Members present, and the SMILE members and others in attendance, in turn introduce themselves. He then asked the Board to review the minutes of the February 20 Board Meeting; Gail Hoffnagle requested one clarification be added. Then Tyler Janzen moved the minutes be accepted as amended; Kevin Palmer seconded; and the motion passed unanimously.

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 has been 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.

Elizabeth Milner wondered if SMILE currently has a representative at Southeast Uplift (as is required); apparently not yet, since Gail stepped down from that role recently. Elizabeth volunteered for the role, and Gail Hoffnagle moved that she be appointed by SMILE as our Uplift representative. Kevin Palmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Scott Kelly, Chair of the SMILE Transportation Committee, arose for an update on the “Tacoma Street Neighborhood Traffic Management Project” (the installation of speed bumps) by the Portland Bureau of Transportation. 45 people signed the attendance sheet at the PBOT Open House at SMILE Station, and even more were present. Kelly reminded that PBOT views this as a project to increase safety by slowing cut-through traffic down, not a plan to reduce or eliminate cut-through traffic. At the Open House, in an informal vote by attendees, 20 people were in favor of the project, and 20 more were generally favorable but sought more from the project. Scott explained that the project will be implemented as planned, but it will be evaluated sometime after implementation, and further steps could be contemplated in a “phase two”. Half the allocated budget will remain for any “phase two”.

Next to speak was Michelle Traver, Administrator of TriMet’s “Public Art Program”, who was present to acquaint SMILE with plans for public art on all 4 sides of the MAX power station at 2397 S.E. Glenwood Street, just northeast of Fire Station 20, beside McLoughlin Boulevard. She showed examples of past work by the chosen artist; the actual designs have

not been chosen, but will be soon, and will be in the same vein as the displayed examples. The Board expressed interest in an unveiling ceremony of some sort when the work is done.

Kim Borcharding was next on the agenda, proposing an ad hoc “SMILE Community Connection Committee”, with herself as Chair. She is stepping down from the Board in May, but would like to lead this committee; she said she would like to work with Kevin Palmer on the SMILE e-mailed newsletter (Kevin is also stepping down, but plans to continue his involvement with our web activities), and would like to “provide a path to involve more residents in SMILE.” She proposes to determine the needs and desires of the neighborhood with a new poll – possibly planning two or three new events a year, based on the poll outcome. Since at least one Board member must be on every SMILE committee, according to our ByLaws, Tyler Janzen volunteered for that role on such a committee. The proposal seemed well-received by the Board, and Gail Hoffnagle moved the committee be established as outlined; Kevin Palmer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting concluded with a detailed report from Gail Hoffnagle, Chair of the SMILE “Friends of Sellwood Community Center” Committee. She began by reminding us that the Center has “regularly been on the chopping block” at the Parks Department every couple of years for a long time, during the city budgeting process; but we have always successfully lobbied to keep it open. Last year, Mayor Wheeler promised to keep it, and other small Community Centers, open for two more years while the city would research their costs in depth. A year later, no research has been done and the promise has been forgotten – and, in the current “\$7 million Parks budget deficit” crisis, with a new Parks Director, and with limited or no opportunities for public input, the decision has been announced to close our Community Center effective September 1 – as well as all of the other small Centers (except Woodstock, which that community has been maintaining at no cost to Parks for years). The closure of our Center was decided upon by the city despite the fact that the Center already has prepaid children’s programs for next fall, and waiting lists for many family programs.

Gail reminded the Board that Helen Hiczun, a Brooklyn resident and regular user of the Sellwood Community Center, a decade ago willed the proceeds from the sale of her house to SMILE “to help keep the Sellwood Community Center open”. Held in a dedicated fund, those proceeds have now doubled to approximately \$700,000 (an amount that is 10% of the entire announced Parks budget deficit). Gail said, “We have opportunities here, but the Mayor’s budget will be announced May 1; the City Council will finalize the budget in June.”

Gail presented a page showing three options for possible SMILE action to address ways of keeping our Center open [incorporated into these minutes by reference]. There followed much thoughtful discussion; both misgivings and enthusiasm were expressed. She repeated her observation that “time is short, and this may be our only window of opportunity.” Simon Fulford moved, and Kim Borcharding seconded, that SMILE proceed with a request for a city meeting to discuss problems and solutions, as well as the trust fund set up by SMILE for this very purpose – subject to review by the Board before the subsequent written request is sent. The motion passed unanimously, and Elaine O’Keefe volunteered to write a draft request within a day or so for review. Joel Leib, made a motion to call a **Special Board Meeting** for Wednesday, April 3, 6-7:30 p.m. at SMILE Station to pursue the matter; Simon Fulford seconded; the motion passed unanimously. Simon Fulford then moved this meeting be adjourned; Pat Hainley and others seconded; the motion passed unanimously at 9:45 p.m.