

SMILE General Meeting minutes

May 1, 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: Elaine O’Keefe; Julie Currin; Bob Burkholder; Tyler Janzen; Elizabeth Milner; Kevin Palmer; Simon Fulford; Kim Borcharding

President Joel Leib called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m., and began by asking those present to introduce themselves, around the room. With a quorum present, Leib asked that the minutes of the April 3 General Meeting be reviewed. Pat Hainley offered a spelling correction. After the review of the minutes, Tyler Janzen moved the minutes be accepted as amended, Chuck Martin seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

President Leib reminded those present that this General Meeting would center on our annual Board Election. Five at-large Board seats will be open for election (one to fulfill the second year of a Board member who resided to run for an Officer position), and all four one-year-term Officer positions will be open – and a new President and Vice President will be elected, since he is “term-limited out” by the ByLaws and is running for an at-large Board seat; and the current Vice President is also running for an at-large Board seat, in deference for Simon Fulford having decided to leave the Board to run for the Vice Presidency.

The SMILE Nominating Committee – led by Kevin Palmer; also including Ed Nunez and Miriam Erb – developed the slate, and is handling the election details, overseen by Muz Afzal of Southeast Uplift. He introduced Mr. Afzal. He reminded that anyone present who wants to run for any open seat would have an opportunity to nominate themselves (or anyone else qualified as a SMILE Member) tonight before the ballots would be voted.

First, however, he invited Vice President Gail Hoffnagle – also Chair of the SMILE Friends of Sellwood Community Center Committee – to give a brief report on the meeting she and several others (including himself) had just had at City Hall earlier this afternoon. Gail arose and remarked that Sellwood Community Center had been opened by the Portland Parks Department in 1920, and we as a neighborhood want it to see its 100th anniversary, despite announced city plans to shut it down permanently on September 1. It is also one of the few Community Centers in Portland that has an established Preschool program, she observed.

This afternoon’s meeting involved the new Parks Department Director and several other Parks officials, she reported; and they seem still committed to shut down the Center on September 1. “There is still one last chance, before this becomes final” – a Parks Department public meeting 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Western Forestry Center on Thursday, May 9. However, probably SMILE will have to take over operation of the building ourselves on September 1, even though information on the building’s current condition received from the city so far has been “spotty”. The Parks Department seems willing to sell the building to

SMILE for a nominal price, but the process the city has to go through to do that is lengthy; and if SMILE pursues acquiring the building, to continue its key programs with SMILE providing them, it will probably have to rent the building effective September 1, until the purchase of the building becomes possible. “The programs in the Center are more important than the historic building itself,” Gail remarked, “and the idea of building a new Community Center in Westmoreland Park is still not off the table at the Parks Department.” We will need a lot of volunteer community help if we are going to pursue this option, she observed; but Pat Hainley said that we cannot fail to pursue that option, since the bequest of Helen Hiczun requires that we do so, using the funds she bequeathed to SMILE to do it. “If we ‘crash and burn’ doing it [as Elaine O’Keefe was afraid we might do], we are obligated to try,” said Pat – at least, until the bequeathed funds are exhausted. The SMILE Board will have the final say on proceeding. There followed general discussion of all these points.

Joel then introduced retiring Board Member Kevin Palmer, Chair of the SMILE Nominating Committee, to introduce the annual Board Election. There was one candidate each for the four officer positions; Kevin invited anyone present to offer a nomination. None offered. He then invited the four candidates to speak briefly. Tyler Janzen introduced himself and discussed his reasons for running for President. Simon Fulford, an at-large Board member for a year, and a resident for three years, told why he was running for Vice President. Eric Norberg and Pat Hainley introduced themselves as seeking re-election to their positions.

Palmer said there were eight candidates for the five at-large Board seats (one of which will be for one year, to finish Simon Fulford’s two-year term). However, Rowdy Bossard withdrew after the ballots were printed, he said, and is no longer a candidate; and Christopher Hanford “has sick kids at home”, and could not attend. So six candidates were present for the election. Palmer invited more at-large Board candidate nominations from the room; none were offered. He then invited brief statements from the six candidates present. They spoke in alphabetical order: Bob Burkholder (seeking re-election), Justin Dick (a new resident), Gail Hoffnagle, Joel Leib, Chuck Martin, and Rhea Smith (also a new resident, and a teacher). Ballots had been given to all qualified SMILE members as they entered and signed in for the meeting; those ballots were now voted, and members of the Nominating Committee circulated, to pick up the folded ballots – then withdrawing to the basement with Mr. Afzal, for ballot tabulation. “Thanks for serving” were given to retiring Board Members.

As the counting of ballots took place downstairs, Ms. Chris Timberlake was invited to present on her progress as Oaks Pioneer Church’s marketing expert. She spoke, using a PowerPoint presentation to accompany her talk. She has been marketing the church for rentals since last June. Traffic through the church website, and on social media, is up substantially since then. She has added wedding photos and videos to the website, including drone footage (which she hopes to update and augment, if the Board approves). Advertising on “The Knot” has not worked; but on “WeddingWire.com” it has – and will be renewed.

The Nominating Committee returned and announced that all four nominated Officers were elected. Bob Burkholder, Gail Hoffnagle, Joel Leib, and Rhea Smith were elected to two-year terms as at-large Board members; and the fifth-place finisher, Justin Dick, will complete Simon Fulford’s remaining year on the Board.

Simon Fulford moved adjournment; Kevin Palmer seconded; it was unanimous at 9:14 p.m.