

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

April 17, 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, Kevin Palmer, Tyler Janzen, Julie Currin

President Joel Leib called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m., asking that the Board Members present, as well as the SMILE members and others also in attendance, in turn introduce themselves. He then asked the Board to review the minutes of the March 20 Board Meeting; one correction was noted. Then Elaine O’Keefe 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 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 be open as well. Although, as required by SMILE ByLaws, a Nominating Committee was appointed, led by Kevin Palmer, 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. Nominations can be made as late as just before the ballots are distributed at the May 1 meeting itself.

Kevin Palmer announced that a P.S.U. student, Jordan Nagelkirk, has been accepted as a SMILE intern; and the intention is that he will assist us in finding ways to reach out to involve our burgeoning renter community in SMILE. He will pursue data on renters in aggregate, and go forward from there. Elaine O’Keefe asked if we might explore inexpensively obtaining change of address information from the Post Office.

Reporting for the Land Use Committee, Bob Burkholder said that the committee has submitted to the City Council testimony about DOZA. City Commissioner Amanda Fritz supported the requirement, advocated by SMILE in our testimony, that the minimum size of construction projects to require a community meeting, in design overlay zones, be reduced from 25,000 square feet to 10,000 square feet. The proposal did not gain support from city staff; but the committee plans to submit a letter supporting her proposal point-by-point. He then read the proposed letter to the Board. Elaine O’Keefe moved the letter be adopted by SMILE and sent as written; Kevin Palmer seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Next to appear – for a group called “Portland Clean Air”, in place of Joe Hovey, who requested the agenda item – was Greg Borget, who presented on diesel particulate emissions

and other chemical emissions from older diesel trucks, and from industry. He said that data had been compiled on a spreadsheet and mapped. He alleged that Precision Castparts on Johnson Creek Boulevard and Bullseye Glass in Brooklyn remain a major polluters, despite installation of pollution control equipment and clean bill of health from the Oregon DEQ.

Turning to diesel particulates, he seemed unaware that SMILE has been addressing this issue for years, particularly in connection with the settlement of our lawsuit against the Southern Pacific/Union Pacific in regards to the Brooklyn Rail Yard. Borget showed a map suggesting that diesel particulates are considerably higher along Tacoma Street in Sellwood than at the Brooklyn Yard, even though the weight restriction on the Sellwood Bridge prohibits large “semi” type trucks from even using Tacoma Street.

Pat Hainley pointed out that truck traffic is much, much heavier on Holgate Boulevard, and at Harold Street and McLoughlin Boulevard, due to the Brooklyn Yard container shipping traffic, than it is on Tacoma Street. Borget then explained that the map did not actually represent measured pollution, but was projected from ODOT records of truck traffic routes combined with general information on diesel truck pollution. Smaller trucks were included in the truck count, he said. A guest meeting attendee, a new rental resident, Rowdy Boassard, volunteered to be a liaison between “Portland Clean Air” and SMILE.

Next to speak was Gail Hoffnagle, SMILE Vice President and Chair of SMILE’s “Friends of Sellwood Community Center” Committee, who reported on the city meeting she attended on Tuesday. She was one of fifteen people invited to speak for three minutes to the Portland City Council as part of the city budget process. She later went to a meeting with City Commissioner Joann Hardesty to “get a feel for her point of view”. Another meeting opportunity for us is coming up, involving meeting with four people with the city, but none of them is a Commissioner. We have our pick of three dates for this, the latest of which is April 30. There followed some discussion of this new meeting opportunity; no more than four people from SMILE should be there, President Joel Leib suggested. There followed a general exchange of thoughts on the subject of the Sellwood Community Center by members of the Board. It was decided that next Wednesday, April 24, 4 p.m., at City Hall, should be the meeting date we shoot for; “we’ll meet to prepare on Saturday morning at SMILE Station”.

R. Corless, Chair of the SMILE Crime Prevention Committee, was last to report. She wants more Neighborhood Watches specifically involving businesses, and plans visits to businesses to discuss it with the city’s Neighborhood Watch specialist, Mark Wells. She plans to attend tomorrow morning’s monthly Sellwood Moreland Business Alliance (SMBA) meeting at 9 a.m. at SMILE Station, at which our NRT Officer from Central Precinct is scheduled to appear. The Board suggested “targeted goals” for the rest of the year. She said she will continue to work with Neighborhood Watch Trainer Mark Wells to increase residential and business Neighborhood Watches.

There being no more business on the agenda, or offered from the floor, Pat Hainley moved the meeting be adjourned, and Kevin Palmer seconded the motion. The motion carried with evident unanimity at 9:13 p.m.