



getting more web traffic for the church, and we do want to avoid negative reviews, are we actually **ready and able** to accommodate the increased demand and clientele that the increased marketing would generate – especially with regard to the planned wedding reunion event? Is it reasonable to get the rate structure done in a month? Chris said she believed so. As concerns the reunion event, she said she'd worry if it were postponed too much; the crowd generated could be disappointing. Joel Leib asked if it could work if moved to October? Chris said yes.

Tyler Janzen then suggested that we approve the \$300 expenditure for the videographer, and further discuss the appropriation of the \$2,500 ad budget for the reunion event at our June 19 Board Meeting, to allow more planning and discussion. Simon Fulford turned that suggestion into a motion, Elaine O'Keefe seconded it, and it carried unanimously.

The next agenda item brought us Lee Cannon, Sellwood American Family Insurance agent and current President of SMBA – the Sellwood-Moreland Business Alliance. Lee said SMBA has enjoyed an uptick under its new manager, and explained the mission of the organization as, “to promote the neighborhood as a great place to shop and to do business.” With the rising rental population in Sellwood and Westmoreland, he said an effort is underway to reach more renters. “Welcome Packs” are distributed to new residents; SMILE has been participating. Lee explained that the outreach to renters is done mainly through Property Managers: “They **want** their renters to be part of the community, if only to minimize rental turnover.” President Janzen said he would like to have a SMILE presence at SMBA meetings, and vice versa.

R. Corless, Chair of the SMILE Crime Prevention Committee, next stood to report that she had attended the last SMBA meeting and discussed “Business Neighborhood Watch”, and she hopes the committee can partner with SMBA. She also said she has met with Simon Fulford, the Board liaison on her committee, and discussed thoughts for guest speakers at SMILE meetings.

Gail Hoffnagle was last on the agenda, to report, with Julie Currin, on the current status of the Sellwood Community Center – which the city has announced will close on September 1, but which SMILE is seeking to keep open, even if by taking it over ourselves. The two were at the city budget meeting at the Western Forestry Center last Wednesday; Gail said the city has “closed ranks in wanting to pass the Mayor’s budget”, which includes closing all small Portland Community Centers. Commissioner Joann Hardesty has requested that the current park facilities and all current staff be included in the budget for one more year, but it appears to Gail that the rest of the City Council has retaliated for that “break in ranks” by cutting \$50,000 from the budget for offices she supervises. The City Council is poised to vote next Wednesday to approve the Mayor’s budget; she hopes to have one more chance to speak there.

But, the conversation then turned to SMILE’s intent to lease the Community Center from the city starting September 1 and maintaining the programs most essential to the community; Julie Currin is in discussions with the “Y” on sub-contracting the operation of its important preschool and after-school programs. We need to have a study done on the current state of the building; and we need to get the city to produce the line-item figures for the building and program operation from the city, from which we already have repeatedly requested it. Logistics were next discussed at length. In conclusion, Gail remarked that in her view, since we accepted committed funds now amounting to over \$700,000 which are, per the donor’s request, dedicated to keeping the Community Center open, that we have a moral obligation to try to do that, at least up to the point at which all these funds have been expended in the effort.

Eric Norberg moved adjournment; Simon Fulford seconded; unanimously passed at 9:20 p.m.