

S.M.I.L.E. BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2012; SMILE STATION

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and
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Officers and Directors present: President Mat Millenbach, Vice President Paul Notti, Treasurer Pat Hainley, and Secretary Eric Norberg; and Directors Stan Hoffman, Tom Ramsey, Bradley Heintz, Nancy Walsh, and Michael Hayes

President Mat Millenbach called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm, observing that a quorum was present. He began by recognizing that a large number of people were present, determining that they had come to be present for the agenda item about Moreland Presbyterian Church proposing to allow a homeless woman or family to spend the night in their parking lot, in accordance with a recent Portland City Council resolution -- and then explaining the role of SMILE.

Mat asked those present to introduce themselves, and then asked the Board to approve the agenda; Nancy Walsh moved the agenda be approved, Stan Hoffman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Mat then asked for a review of the minutes of the March 21st Board meeting. Mat requested a change to a sentence on page three. Pat Hainley then moved that the minutes be accepted as amended; Tom Ramsey seconded the motion; and the motion carried without dissent.

Since Tina Osterink was not present as scheduled for the first agenda item, President Millenbach moved on to the agenda item concerning the Moreland Presbyterian Church previously referred to -- and introduced Dawn Anderson, who had requested the agenda item. She distributed a packet of background information to Board members [incorporated into these minutes by reference], and explained that as part of the church's plan, it proposed to place a porta-potty on their parking lot for the use of the authorized homeless overnighiter. She said the City resolution permitted up to four vehicles at night on-site at participating churches and nonprofits, but that Moreland Presbyterian is only proposing one per night.

Anderson then presented the issues of concern to the church's neighbors: (1) safety -- there is not any on-site monitoring contemplated by the church; (2) inadequate notification to neighbors by the church of its plans to participate in this program; and (3) the potential for this City program to "mushroom in the neighborhood", because there are many churches and nonprofits here.

Anderson continued by saying that the church's neighbors have

chosen to write letters of objection to the church pastor and city agencies, and she feels the responses have been inadequate so far. However, she also said that the church had responded by scheduling a meeting at the church on June 4, involving persons from the Housing Bureau and JOIN, and the church has reportedly said that if neighbors are still opposed to its participation in this City project after this meeting, the church will not go forward with it.

She said the hours in which this project would be 10 pm to 7:30 am, and observed that the church is not staffed after 4 pm. The participants in the program reportedly are to be qualified by JOIN from among those seeking, and cleared for, transitional housing. The program is to be for single nights only for each participant, rather than multiple nights, and the church is only proposing to accept homeless women and children, or families.

Resident Dick Laughlin volunteered from the audience that he had contacted the head office of the Presbyterian Church in the United States and had spoken with their lawyer, about his concern about liability. He added, "She shook her head in incredulity". He said the neighborhood cannot cope with problems that could arise from this. Another man in the audience said he had looked into a similar program in Eugene, and offered statistics about it, but said that the majority of participants there are "chronically homeless", which is not comparable to the current situation it appears. A woman calling herself "Stacy on 19th" said she lives across from the church parking lot, and is sympathetic to the homeless, but believes supervision is needed in this program, and wishes the neighbors had been "brought in earlier by the church".

Comments from the audience continued: A woman said that "we want to help the homeless", but she doesn't see how this program would do that. A man said the City had simply responded to the recent "Occupy" issue by passing this program, which had first been proposed by Commissioner Nick Fish a couple of years ago -- "with the hope that the cost of policing the homeless would go down as they move to private property". Another man said he agreed with that analysis. Former SMILE Board member Teresa Pucik was present, and said she finds this program is working well in the Inner Southeast business district between Powell and Burnside, where her office is, and poses no problem there -- but it should be kept there, and not in residential areas.

Pat Hainley responded to all this discussion by agreeing that "the church did not do its homework", but pointed out that it has always been a good neighbor -- having hosted the Loaves and Fishes "Meals On Wheels" program for many years -- "and I would not want to vote on this until the church holds its meeting with the neighbors."

Stan Hoffman observed that this is a two-part problem -- an issue with the church, and an issue with the design of the City program itself. Michael Hayes suggested to the neighbors present that they should attend the June 4 meeting, and do so bringing thoughts of how the church might make this program acceptable to them -- "the church will hopefully have the opportunity to work with you."

Paul Notti commended the manner with which this group of neighbors had comported itself, and urged them to attend the June 4th meeting, and then return to the June General Meeting on the 6th and "talk with us," adding, "Nothing is ever done quickly -- especially working with the City -- but you've taken a very good first step." A woman in the audience responded that this is not just a problem between the church and its 19th Street neighbors; "it is a much more general issue."

Bradley Heintz advised those present, "Get a feel for how permanent this might be. Be open to it, but be realistic about the concrete issues that this invokes. Focus on those issues, and don't give up -- especially trying to get answers from the City."

Dick Laughlin, in the audience, commented that he feels there are grounds for a lawsuit against the church, for "ruining the lifestyle" of its neighbors.

Mat Millenbach concluded the discussion, which had taken an hour, by commenting that, "This is troubling from a process perspective." He said he expects to attend the meeting on June 4, and he will put the matter on the agenda of the June 6 General Public Meeting.

Next, Phil Richman was present to discuss the SMILE investment account, which he has handled for over three years, beginning when it was first established. He has just moved from Wells Fargo to TenBridge Partners in downtown Portland, and his question was whether we want to continue using his services. Pat Hainley explained how the fund was established with the proceeds from a donated house -- designated for the Friends of the Sellwood Community Center. However, since that committee was not a nonprofit, SMILE became its fiduciary agent, since we are a 501c3 nonprofit organization. The proceeds from the sale of the house, and \$50,000 of SMILE funds, were invested in December of 2009, at "the market's low point", so \$312,000 has now become \$423,000. The assets are handled through Charles Schwab at Phil's new firm, and the arrangement would be much the same if he continues with us. \$1.25 million is the target for this fund: No withdrawals are to be made until that sum is accumulated, and then only interest would be withdrawn to benefit the Sellwood Community Center, to keep the capital intact, Pat Hainley explained. Pat then recommended staying

with Phil Richman. He formalized this recommendation in the form of a motion, seconded by Nancy Walsh. It passed unanimously.

Mat Millenbach then turned to the May 7 OLCC meeting he and Paul Notti had attended, in support of SMILE Board's prior voted opposition to the granting of a liquor license to the Casa Diablo proposed next to the Acropolis, adjacent to Johnson Creek Park, near a large apartment complex, on McLoughlin Boulevard just south of Umatilla Street. He reviewed for the Board the letter which SMILE had submitted in this matter on May 25, 2011, which we are still seeking to advance.

On May 21, Mat will return to OLCC for further discussion, and he requested a Special Board Meeting on May 23 to support, oppose, or be neutral on the Casa Diablo permit -- or, alternatively, to request further postponement, for an investigation of further pertinent information from police reports related to the other (Northwest Portland) location of Casa Diablo. Bradley Heintz cited additional related crime around the Acropolis drawn from the Police online "Crime Mapper", 500 feet from Johnson Creek Park, and not in the OLCC report now. The Board agreed to a special meeting at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, May 23, to deliberate this. Notification will be made in accordance with SMILE Bylaws. Mat and Paul Notti went over the SMILE proposed restrictions on any Casa Diablo OLCC license in detail.

Present was Eric Fox, former SMILE Board member and President, who wanted to tell the Board he had visited with Casa Diablo co-owner Johnny at the Northwest Portland Casa Diablo, and found him credible. Johnny told him that he objects to having restrictions that do not apply to the Acropolis next door. There were three security people on hand in the middle of the day, when there were few clientele. Fox said, "a police call is the last thing he wants". The requested outdoor seating area for the Casa Diablo at the McLoughlin site would be a smoking area; "McLoughlin is ear-splitting out there", Fox pointed out. He said he thinks Johnny will be cooperative, but doesn't want his hands tied. "He and his staff will NEVER call the cops, to try to keep his record clean." Fox warned that if the Sellwood Casa Diablo does not get its liquor license, it could become an even more undesirable teen all-night club.

Board members pointed out that Fox is relying on Johnny's "company line", and Paul Notti said that the OLCC does not buy all of what Johnny says, itself.

There being nothing else remaining on the agenda, Tom Ramsey moved the meeting be adjourned, and Pat Hainley seconded the motion, which carried with apparent unanimity at 10:10 pm.