

SMILE BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2012
SMILE Station

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OFFICERS PRESENT: Mat Millenbach, President; Eric Norberg,
Secretary; Pat Hainley, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Nate Maki, Ellen Burr, Bradley Heintz,
Gerri Sue Lent, Nancy Walsh, Stan Hoffman

President Mat Millenbach called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm, and asked for introductions from all present around the room. He then requested a review of the minutes of the September Board meeting; Gerri Sue Lent asked for a minor wording change in one sentence on page one. Ellen Burr then moved the minutes be accepted as amended, and Gerri Sue Lent seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

For the first item on the agenda, the spokespersons were not present, so President Millenbach briefly summarized the plan for the Springwater Corridor Cleanup in their absence.

Next on the agenda was the new proposal by Moreland Presbyterian Church for housing a homeless woman, or a woman and her children, vetted by and in conjunction with JOIN. Millenbach summarized the past issues with the original "parking lot" plan; SMILE had written a letter to the City Council critical of elements of the plan passed by the city, and on June 27 sent a letter of recommendations to the church. The church was represented at the meeting tonight by Don Schoenbeck, who said that the church had taken the concerns and recommendations in the letter seriously -- specifically that (1) the neighborhood would prefer that the homeless guest be housed within the building, with (2) bathroom facilities, in (3) a secure environment.

Schoenbeck described the security arrangements in the space the church was dedicating for this purpose -- adding that the room has bathroom facilities, a microwave oven, a coffeepot, a telephone, and an alarm system. Telephone numbers will be posted for contact persons from the church; 9-1-1 would be called in emergencies. The entrance is ADA-compliant. The church feels that all neighborhood concerns have been addressed in this new plan. As before, the guest will be a single woman or a woman with children, all of them prequalified by JOIN as being in transition for low income housing. At this point, no men are allowed in this program at the church.

Will Harris, Associate Director of JOIN, was also present to comment. There currently is a waiting list of 60 families for shelter, and he commended the church for developing this

program. He went on to explain all the services and activities provided by JOIN for the homeless. He confirmed that JOIN would select the guest for the church per the church's requirements, and he agreed that the space provided within the church will be safe. He confirmed that the recipients selected for the Moreland Presbyterian Church program will be those "en route to something better", and their participation will not be intended to make any individual a longterm resident of the church. JOIN is able to provide day facilities for the guest at its new headquarters at N.E. 81st and Halsey.

Residents from near the church who were present at the meeting then asked questions about specific aspects of the plan: There will be no male participants per neighbor requests; the woman is free to come and go (will have a key to open the locked door at will), but is expected to stay inside. There remained some complaints from the neighbors about the lack of communication by the church with its neighbors as it developed the new plan, as had been the case with the old plan -- Schoenbeck said that the governing board that runs the church has to approve any such plan before it could be presented to the neighbors, which creates this problem. But this time the church had decided to approach the community through its neighborhood association (SMILE), to try to ameliorate this issue.

A woman present asked now the neighbors could support this effort by the church and JOIN; Will Harris of JOIN suggested neighbors could transport them to places they need to go (such as JOIN), as well as "take them out", and build a relationship. He pointed out that "these people are homeless BECAUSE they have no social network". Shoenbeck added the thought that any neighbors who are so inclined could bring a dinner or a breakfast for the guest.

At that point, a neighbor who lives directly across the street from the church expressed unqualified support for this new plan. A woman present said that the proposed hours in which the guest would be in the church -- 9:30 pm to 7 am -- might be too restrictive; might the guest not be allowed to enter at dusk or dinnertime, and leave as late as 8 am? Shoenbeck said the church agrees, and wants to know if the neighbors would object to an expansion of those hours from the ones originally proposed? The original hours were already permitted by the city's action, and were simply a starting point. Another woman said that it was appropriate to choose to engage the neighborhood through SMILE, and she supports the new program.

A man asked about the participant-screening program; specifically, what security will there be for a woman being pursued by a violent man? Pat Hainley said that domestic violence is equal among the homeless and non-homeless, and so that should not be a limiting issue. Harris of JOIN assured

that the "matching" process will be "mindful of the facility offered", adding that "JOIN has twenty years of experience at this". He said, "What we screen for is to make the 'second chance' that is offered successful." Pat Hainley then made a motion to accept the proposal as outlined, with the exception of advocating the longer, more liberalized hours of occupancy the church had already expressed agreement with -- and further, that an ad-hoc committee be formed by SMILE to address future fine-tuning of the plan. Bradley Heintz seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Kris Heiberg of Heiberg Garbage and Recycling, a former SMILE Board member, Secretary, and President, was in the room to report to the Board on the latest Neighborhood Cleanup last May. She pointed out that she has coordinated this cleanup for thirty years. She presented the paperwork concerning the outcome this year -- incorporated into these minutes by reference -- which showed a positive balance for SMILE once again this year. Southeast Uplift assisted with funds for the cleanup.

Gerri Sue Lent then volunteered to head the ad-hoc "Moreland Presbyterian Church Homeless Program Committee". A signup list to participate in this committee was circulated among the visitors present at the meeting by President Mat Millenbach.

Pat Hainley was present to obtain Board approval for the forthcoming year's SMILE budget, which he had already provided to the Board. Eric Norberg moved the budget be accepted as presented, and Nate Maki seconded the motion. In the discussion that followed, President Millenbach pointed out that our representative to the U.P. lawsuit settlement, Kevin Downing, had requested that \$2,500 be included in the budget for air monitoring equipment. Mat wondered if this could be paid from settlement funds. And, noting that the proposed budget showed a deficit, he added, "Can we avoid having annual deficits?" Nate Maki pointed out that "You make up deficits from assets, by showing a deficit." Pat said that the budget was a worst-case scenario, that he expected the deficit would not be as large as shown, but that even if it were, we have more than enough assets to cover it. Mat then requested Eric amend his motion to include \$2,500 for air monitoring equipment. Eric did so, and Nate concurred. The subsequent vote was unanimous.

Matthew Santone, who lives at S.E. 21st and Tenino, was present to ask if SMILE were aware that a piece of property at 16th and Tenino is proposed for a 68-unit apartment house. Ellen Burr, who heads the SMILE Land Use Committee responded that we were aware of it, and that she would be happy to meet with Matthew to discuss it further.

There being no other business, Pat Hainley moved the meeting be adjourned, and Gerri Sue Lent and Nancy Walsh simultaneously seconded. The motion carried, unopposed, at 8:49 pm.