

SMILE GENERAL PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2012
SMILE Station

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Officers and Directors present: President Mat Millenbach, Treasurer Pat Hainley, Secretary Eric Norberg; and Directors Gerri Sue Lent, Michael Hayes, and Nancy Walsh.

President Mat Millenbach called the meeting to order at 7:33, and began by requesting that all those present introduce themselves in turn. Noting the absence of a quorum, he postponed the review of the minutes of the October 3rd General Meeting till such time as a quorum was present.

Ronda Fast of the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, appeared as the first agenda item, and observed that SMILE is part of the "Crystal Springs Partnership", so she was present to report on improvements already made and others underway in removing old culverts to provide safer and easier passage for returning Salmon. She showed photos of the S.E. 21st and Umatilla restoration at the "Brannon Site".

She warned of traffic issues next summer, when the culvert under S.E. Tacoma Street will be replaced (but the street will remain open, with lane restrictions). She explained pending projects, and took suggestions on ways to lessen their impact on nearby residents. The reversion of the duck pond at the north end of Westmoreland Park back to a natural stream and wetlands will also take place this summer.

Jennifer Koozer, TriMet spokesperson and a Sellwood resident, is our official liaison on the Inner Southeast MAX light rail project, and she was next to appear, to report on its progress. Work is going on all along the MAX trackway route now. The north and south extensions of the Bybee Bridge, to provide bus turnouts and access to elevators down to the MAX station there, will start early next year -- and the initial pile driving will be noisy. Next summer, deck work on that overcrossing will slow traffic on the bridge, but won't close it. MAX overcrossings are currently under construction at the entrance to the Union Pacific "Brooklyn Yard" at S.E. Harold Street, and also at Tacoma Street/Johnson Creek Boulevard overpass site.

Koozer was asked if TriMet buses will run over the new Sellwood Bridge, when it is completed; she replied, "they can -- it will be built for it -- but there is no plan currently either to restore bus service over the bridge, or not to do it. It's still undetermined if a bus will run there." She added that the Harold Street bus stops for Buses 31, 32, 33, will close in two

weeks for a few months, to allow reconstruction of the roadway and sidewalks around that McLoughlin Boulevard intersection. The bus stops for these buses at McLoughlin and 17th are planned to remain open, however. She added that work is progressing well on the new Transit Bridge which comes ashore just south of OMSI.

Brian Posewitz of the SMILE Land Use Committee reported for the committee's Chair, Ellen Burr, on a rowhouse project planned for 1670 S.E. Knight Street in Westmoreland. The consultant for the developer says that two duplex rowhouse structures will be built across the street from Space Age Gas, on a large residential lot on which a house currently stands, which is zoned R-1. Land division is involved. There will be parking on-site -- one garage for each of the four homes. The units will face Knight Street. Height will be 30-35 feet. A city application for the land division will be submitted with notice to the neighbors. He answered a few questions concerning details of the project.

Although not on the agenda, the "S.E. Tacoma east of 17th" apartment building thoroughly discussed at the October 3rd General Public Meeting was brought up again at the request of some attendees. Mat summarized the issue of this apartment house which will have no on-street parking (or even a loading zone for tenants moving in or out).

He said that many Eastside Land Use Chairs have organized as a group, and will appear at a Portland Planning Commission meeting on this issue on November 13th. There followed questions on city procedure. Pat Hainley complained that links on the Portland Planning website to the relevant documents concerning this project do not work. Another SMILE Land Use Committee member present said that newly-elected Mayor Charlie Hales has said that he wants a moratorium on these "apartment houses with no on-site parking" projects, while the city considers the matter further.

The issue of local houses being bought, torn down, and replaced with larger houses, came up -- Mat briefly discussed the issue -- and he pointed out that SMILE does not have much control at present over this. If these rebuilds are allowed by the zoning, they can do it.

There being no other business on the agenda or brought up from the floor, and with the meeting never having gotten closer to the needed 20-SMILE-member quorum than 19, Mat Millenbach declared the meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.