

SMILE GENERAL PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2013
SMILE Station

blog procedural

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OFFICERS PRESENT: Mat Millenbach, Vice President; Pat Hainley, Treasurer; Eric Norberg, Secretary
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ellen Burr, Nancy Walsh, Gerri Sue Lent, Michael Hayes; Brian Posewitz, Bob Burkholder

SMILE Vice President Mat Millenbach called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm in the absence of President Gail Hoffnagle, and after noting the presence of a quorum, began by inviting introductions around the room from all those present. After that, he invited a review of the minutes of the June 5th and July 3rd General Public Meetings; no corrections or omissions were noted for either, and Carolyn Timmerman moved that both sets of minutes be approved as submitted, and Gerri Sue Lent seconded the motion, which then carried without objection.

First on the agenda was the matter of a four-home project planned for R2.5 zoned property at 1208 S.E. Lambert; the two-lot property is 100x100 feet, and a large home and a tree are to be removed, and replaced with four homes on 25-foot-wide and 100-foot-long lots. The permit to divide the lots has been applied for. The future designer of the homes was present -- Neil, the owner of Emerio Design -- who said the designs of the homes have not yet been determined, but they will be built to code. His firm has done extensive home design work for Everett Custom Homes. He was appearing in conjunction with the lot division request. There followed an extensive discussion, which appeared to center on concerns about alleged design errors by the same firm on a home at S.E. 20th and Rex and another at 16th and Malden. The topics included zoning code, building code, design review, and overlays. Neil said he was dismayed to hear allegations of errors in the work of his firm, since it maintains a high quality standard and he is proud of the work.

Next on the agenda was a Land Use Committee update from its Chair, Ellen Burr. She reported that a Brief had been filed by our attorney today before LUBA, the Land Use Board of Appeals, concerning the Moreland Station development on S.E. 23rd between Tacoma and Tenino Streets, in support of the SMILE appeal.

Steve Szigethy followed, on the agenda at his own request. He is a six-year neighborhood resident, but has just bought a new home on S.E. Insley Street, just east of S.E. 18th Avenue. He presented a detailed proposal, incorporated into these minutes by reference and passed out to those in attendance, for a pedestrian and bike bridge crossing over McLoughlin, and the MAX and

and Union Pacific tracks, on the Reedway Street alignment. This would reconnect north Westmoreland, Reed College, and the Reed neighborhood; would give Reed bicyclists much quicker and safer access to the Springwater Trail access point on S.E. Milwaukie Avenue at Mitchell Street; and would provide incentive for TriMet to finally add the long-advocated Harold Street MAX station, to which this bridge would provide access from both sides of the railyard. This bridge has already been spoken of positively in the current Portland Comprehensive Plan process.

Teresa Pucik, SMILE's designated representative to the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Inner Southeast light rail project, was present, and questioned whether neighborhood support exists for this bridge. However, several others present voiced support for Szigethy's proposal, and Eric Norberg pointed out that the idea had originated at a TriMet light rail open house at Sellwood Middle School some time ago, and it struck an immediate positive spark with the public present, which led to the Harold Street Station remaining on the TriMet MAX map as a "possible future station". He pointed out that SMILE's Board had passed a resolution supporting that station, which included such a bridge, and so had the Reed Neighborhood Association Board, relying on such a bridge to provide access to its residents to the Harold Street Station. Szigethy left the meeting saying he was encouraged by the generally positive reaction to his proposal.

Jennifer Koozer, a Sellwood resident and the local spokesperson for the TriMet Inner Southeast light rail project, was present to give a report on it -- a project she said is at this point half finished. The new MAX line is planned to begin service here on September 12, 2015 -- just over two years from now. On the weekend of August 17-18, McLoughlin Boulevard will be closed just south of the City of Milwaukie, she warned, for 24-hour construction of a bridge which will carry the MAX trains over McLoughlin to the MAX park-and-ride-lot terminus a few hundred feet further south of the new bridge in Oak Grove.

Koozer added that in late September, the 17th Avenue overcrossing ramp to Powell Boulevard westbound will reopen -- but drivers will at first still have to contend with much construction along S.E. 17th to use it. At about the same time the Bybee Bridge over McLoughlin will narrow for a week; and a few weeks later sidewalk access on the bridge will be reduced just to one side, and then just to the other side -- all for connecting the existing bridge to the new turnouts and platform access hardware for the forthcoming Bybee Boulevard MAX Station.

Fish habitat work in Johnson Creek is underway at the Tacoma Street Station site now, and the construction of the public art project there starts soon. The Johnson Creek Watershed Council (JCWC) is currently raising funds for the interpretive boardwalk

project at that site, as well.

Koozer concluded by announcing that the McLoughlin Boulevard intersection at S.E. 17th will be rebuilt, with crosswalks on all four sides. It should be safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. There will also be "a nice bikeway" from Powell to McLoughlin along 17th, Teresa Pucik pointed out.

Nancy Walsh -- not only a Board member, but the Chair of the SMILE Sundae in the Park Committee and the SMILE Church Committee -- was present for a brief report on the successful 34th annual "Sundae in the Park" in Sellwood Park last Sunday. For the first time, attendees were asked to bring canned or boxed food items to benefit St. Vincent DePaul charities, and they received over 150 pounds of food, plus \$200 in cash donations. Southeast Portland Rotary scooped at least 1,700 ice cream sundaes, serving the last one at 6:18 pm, the latest-ever time -- with all proceeds benefitting Loaves and Fishes (Meals On Wheels). Master of Ceremonies Dana Beck also booked the entertainment, all of which was very well received, and Nancy publicly thanked the merchants who had contributed donations and raffle prizes. Nancy got a round of applause for her tireless work directing this signature neighborhood celebration.

With the agenda completed, Millenbach asked for anything further from those present. Ron Swaren, a former SMILE Board member, arose and said he had sent what he characterized as a cranky e-mail to the city about Umatilla Street problems. He also complained about drivers dodging around bicycles and other vehicles by crossing double centerlines, and Eric Norberg recounted how he had often seen impatient drivers pull around stopped buses at corners on 17th where dividers and trees are in the center of the street -- meaning that these drivers were crossing a double line to drive on the wrong side of the street, with dividers preventing their return to the right side of the street till after they had passed through the intersection. No solutions were offered, other than patience and observing the law.

With no other matters offered, Vice President Mat Millenbach declared the meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.