

SMILE BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2013

SMILE Station

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procedural

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Gerri Sue Lent; Nancy Walsh;
Brian Posewitz; Bradley Heintz; Bob Burkholder

SMILE President Gail Hoffnagle called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm, and asked for introductions around the room. After that, she asked for a review of the October 16 Board meeting minutes; no corrections or omissions were reported, and Mat Millenbach moved, and Bob Burkholder and Gerri Sue Lent together seconded, that the minutes be approved as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda involved Brian Posewitz: Whether the Board would make an official recommendation about the proposed traffic signal at S.E. 6th and Tacoma, to be installed at the end of the Sellwood Bridge project, and if so, what the recommendation should be.

Brian began with a recap of the issue, and how it arose, including the misgivings of residents in the area concerning possible cut-through traffic problems it could cause. He said the Transportation Committee, which he Chairs, had just reached a consensus on a recommended Board position on this issue. He read the proposed motion, favorable to the signal if configured as proposed by PBOT and Multnomah County at the SMILE General Public Meeting on November 6th [the minutes of that meeting, on this item of business, are incorporated here by reference].

The motion Brian presented to the Board was:

"That the Board adopt a resolution as follows.
Resolved, the SMILE neighborhood association does not object to the planned traffic signal at 6th and Tacoma, provided: (1) The signal cycle for traffic from 6th Avenue is set to no less than 140 seconds; and (2) the intersection is configured as shown by the City and County at the SMILE General Meeting of November 6 [2013]; i.e., with northbound traffic on 6th Avenue required to turn right at Tacoma Street. SMILE further requests that the City and County commit to a complete program of traffic monitoring after the Sellwood Bridge is complete to determine levels of cut-through traffic, and to develop appropriate mitigation measures if necessary."

Mat Millenbach seconded the motion, and some general discussion followed to clarify the motion and to obtain resident reactions. Eric Norberg pointed out that the light interval would not have to be 140 seconds outside of commute hours, and particularly not on weekends, when considerable traffic to and from Oaks Park would be expected -- and PBOT had said that the interval would not have to be the same at all times, and could be set to different intervals on different days and times of day.

Bradley Heintz questioned the "no objection" wording instead of "approves" wording, and Brian Posewitz explained the rationale behind that wording -- wording which seemed acceptable to all the residents of the immediate area of the planned signal who were in attendance at the meeting. None of them voiced an objection to this motion.

The question was called, and the vote taken. The Board voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

Next to appear was Robert McCulloch, President of the Eastmoreland Neighborhood Association, who started by giving briefly the background of the half-century lawsuit against Southern Pacific, and its successor, the Union Pacific Railroad, involving both ENA and SMILE, and its end by settlement. The issue was always livability, and the settlement dealt with reducing railyard popllution -- but he cautioned that only the public details of the settlement can be discussed in public, under the terms ordered by Judge Hogan in overseeing the settlement.

A 30% reduction in pollution levels coming from the equipment in the Brooklyn Yard is estimated so far, as a consequence of the agreement. However, it appears that the rail traffic in the Yard has increased substantially, meaning that even with the improvement in pollution emissions from the Yard equipment, the net pollution levels may have increased.

McCulloch introduced three people from nearby Reed College who have been engaged in a "Brooklyn Rail Yard Emissions Observation Study". They have been operating an emissions monitoring station, and want to expand it to a second location for better data -- the cost for which will be \$30,000. Since ENA and SMILE have each received a substantial donation from an anonymous donor for just such an activity, ENA has already paid their share, which was evidently set at \$17,000.

The Reed trio -- Dr. Julie Fry, Alan Tuan, and Benjamin Ayres -- said that the models they are using predict high levels of nitrogen dioxide near the Brooklyn Yard -- and they need to see if these models are correct. The current monitoring site is at the Reed warehouses on S.E. 28th, 2,700 feet from the center of the Yard. They are measuring black carbon, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide -- monitoring oxygen and weather conditions.

High nitrogen dioxide levels have been confirmed; these occasionally spike way over EPA limits. Black carbon levels track nitrogen dioxide levels closely. Diesel soot is a large fraction of the fine particulates observed. McCulloch interjected that the rail traffic in the Brooklyn Yard had apparently doubled by 2011, and may now have tripled. The Reed College project hopes to quantitatively separate truck emissions and train emissions -- to correlate emission factors with different types of vehicles.

The Reed project's specific equipment needs include a separate second monitoring station to better fix the pollution measured specifically to the rail yard, and to separate trains and trucks in the data. They want to purchase an aethalometer for long-term carbon measurements; the one now in use is on loan from Magee Scientific, and at some point they will want it back.

McCulloch asked SMILE to pay its share of the cost of this project, based on the settlement to which both ENA and SMILE were parties. Pat Hainley moved that SMILE allocate \$13,000 for the purpose, and Eric Norberg seconded. Mat explained the importance of this step in the context of the settlement; we have special donated funds eligible for such a purpose. (These funds are not included in the SMILE budgeting process.) Some clarifying questions were asked by Board members, within the parameters of the publicly discussable matters in the settlement. All the data from the Reed College project will be publicly available. The question was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

Pat Hainley presented the proposed 2013-14 SMILE budget he had distributed last month to the Board, and for which he now sought approval, since we are already into that fiscal year. In general, we had a deficit last year, which included the cost of the unsuccessful LUBA appeal. The actual deficit this [past fiscal] year of \$23,000 includes depreciation; a \$12,000 deficit is projected in the new fiscal year, but that's a conservative estimate, and it may well be less. Wedding revenue from the Oaks Pioneer Church has declined in recent years. Mat said he would like to see some revenue from Sundae in the Park, our annual Easter Egg Hunt, and our SMILE Christmas Tree on Bybee and S.E. 13th. Pat Hainley responded to a question about our SMILE Station mortgage -- it has about 2-1/2 years left to go.

Pat answered various questions from Board members about budget items. Mat Millenbach moved, and Eric Norberg seconded, that the budget submitted by adopted. The motion passed unanimously.

Reporting for the S.N.A.C. Committee, Nanci Champlin asked about whether Friends of Oaks Bottom Committee funds can be redirected to other S.N.A.C. purposes. These are earmarked, dedicated funds, however -- and SMILE cannot simply confiscate them for unrelated purposes, Eric and others pointed out. A discussion

followed about the Friends of Oaks Bottom trust funds. This discussion was sparked by the desire by the S.N.A.C. Committee to use some of these funds for the establishment of a pocket park on the bluff overlooking Oaks Bottom at Bybee and S.E. 13th, where the SMILE Christmas Tree is located. Pat Hainley said, "We have the authority to spend it in ways consistent with the intent of the donors," although he pointed out that the budget just passed contained \$1,200 for the S.N.A.C. Committee. Bradley Heintz moved that SMILE allocate \$700 of the Friends of Oaks Bottom trust funds for the pocket park's permit application, in recognition that this park and its path are connected to the enhancement of Oaks Bottom. Nancy Walsh seconded. The vote was eight ayes and one absention.

With Ellen Burr absent, Mat Millenbach gave a brief Land Use Committee report on her behalf, giving the status of several issues. The neighbors have filed their own appeal with the State Board of Appeals regarding the "Moreland Station" apartments on Tenino Street; the hearing is set for January 2. Demolition is proceeding on the Claybourne Commons properties on the east side of the block just north of the Post Office on 16th; the building permit for 20 units is currently under review, with projected approval by early December. The SMILE Land Use Committee has responded with comments to two pending land use notices for Land Division Reviews at 8704 S.E. 13th and 1208 S.E. Lambert; no building plans were available for review, but concerns were expressed, including building design and height, building material quality, and landscaping.

The report included the information that the Comprehensive Plan "Map App" is available online at: www.portlandbps.com/gis/cpmapp -- there's lots of information available on the "fairly-user-friendly Map App", which projects how the city will grow over the next 25 years. You can submit comments and read others' comments right on the map.

Gerri Sue Lent was on the agenda at this point to discuss a bike rack at SMILE Station; she pointed out she herself is a bike rider, but there is no place here to lock a bike. She can obtain a free "staple" shaped bike rack and the hardware for it, if we want to have one -- and, if we will install it> Bob Burkholder said he would be happy to install it.

Brian Posewitz made a motion that SMILE install a bike rack, that Gerri Sue Lent obtain a free bike rack, and that she work with Bob Burkholder on its installation, and if significant costs appear to be involved, that the Board be consulted before proceeding. Bob Burkholder seconded the motion, which then passed without objection.

The meeting was declared adjourned by President Gail Hoffnagle at 9:35 pm.