

SMILE BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2013

SMILE Station

blog

procedural

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OFFICERS PRESENT: Gail Hoffnagle, President; Eric Norberg,
Secretary

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

SMILE President Gail Hoffnagle called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm, noting the presence of a quorum. She then asked for a review of the November 20 Board meeting minutes; one spelling error and one punctuation error were reported, and Bob Burkholder moved, and Gerri Sue Lent seconded, that the minutes be approved as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

Hoffnagle announced that the January General Public Meeting will be cancelled, since it would occur on a national holiday -- New Year's day. The next General Meeting will be February 5th.

The first item on the agenda was a follow-up to a presentation at the December General Public Meeting: President Hoffnagle wondered if the SMILE Board has an interest in working towards a neighborhood resident network, oriented towards crime prevention. Bradley Heintz suggested an e-mail based system (listserv) would be more workable than the texting-based network suggested -- possibly broken down into smaller geographic cells, for managability. Eric pointed out that we could set up an e-mail listserv with our existing e-mail system, with letter extensions to define the "smaller geographic cells". At this point nobody on the Board seemed to be able to step forward to explore setting up such a network currently, however.

Deborah Stein was present from the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to discuss the possibility of changing the zoning around S.E. Harold Street to lower residential density, in view of TriMet not currently planning to construct the MAX light rail station at Harold Street which originally prompted the high-density zoning there, almost two decades ago. Q-and-A followed, involving details of the Comprehensive Plan process and "Map App", as relates to this issue. SMILE is still on record as favoring a Harold Street Station, as is the Reed Neighborhood; and TriMet is still uncertain if Buses 31, 32, and 33 will continue to serve Harold Street and 17th Street when the MAX line opens, thus decreasing transit options for north Westmoreland considerably from what they are now. A public discussion of all these issues is expected at the February General Public Meeting. Deborah said a February deadline for

any SMILE comments on this city-initiated proposal is not mandatory, but sooner is better than later in this process.

Nancy Champlin was present to report on the S.N.A.C. Committee, which is preparing to distribute a public notice regarding an opportunity for the public to comment on plans for local amenities in the Springwater Trail "Sellwood Gap". This amounts to an online public survey. There followed some Q-and-A on the details. Michael Hayes made a motion that SMILE endorse this public notice; Bradley Heintz seconded; passed unanimously.

Ellen Burr reported for the Land Use Committee. She started by asking questions of the Board about Deborah Stein's presentation earlier in the meeting. Bradley wondered if such downzoning would be limited to north Westmoreland, or if it could be generalized to concern the zoning of the whole neighborhood. Ellen replied that the proposal is just for north Westmoreland, adding, "And I'm a little surprised they came to us about that."

Ellen Burr told the Board that the Land Use Committee had responded to one land use application -- at 8th and Tacoma, where a developer wants to divide a lot and build a second house. Driveway access to Tacoma is potentially unsafe.

Burr added that the Black Cat property next door is now seeing construction getting underway; and Farmhouse Antiques is going out of business on 13th just north of Spokane -- but the future of the property has not yet been announced.

Gerri Sue Lent reported that she is still working on the SMILE Station bike rack she had proposed with Board support recently, and is exploring city policies relevant to it. Bob Burkholder is still expecting to install a two-bike post.

For the Transportation Committee, Brian Posewitz said that an issue has arisen about the SMILE-favored realignment of left-turn lanes east and westbound on Tacoma at 17th; the city is unable to get ODOT to consent to reducing the speed limit on Tacoma to 25 MPH at this time; they need traffic figures for AFTER the Sellwood Bridge is completed to do that.

This would mean we would be wiping out at least one parking place we'd expected to save just west of 17th on the north side of Tacoma. "We may have to wait two years before proceeding" with this PBOT-proposed safety enhancement, said Brian. However, there seemed to be sentiment on the Board that safety should have a higher priority than that, so Brian said he would pursue safety lane restriping there at the Board's direction.

There being no other business, Michael Hayes moved the meeting be adjourned, and Bradley Heintz seconded the motion, which carried with evident unanimity at 9:33 pm.