

SMILE Station

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

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

SMILE President Gail Hoffnagle called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, noting the presence of a quorum. She then asked for a review of the January 15th Board meeting minutes; Brian Posewitz moved the minutes be approved as submitted; Mat Millenbach seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

Kevin Downing was present as Chair of the SMILE ad-hoc Friends of Sellwood Community Center Committee, and he began by giving the background of PP&R's threat to close the Community Center for budgetary reasons -- and, to avoid cuts, the Committee having asked the City for time to do a study to determine whether SMILE could assume operation of the Center. Meantime, money has been found at the City level, the Center has been restaffed, and the Center has a smaller budget target now. Kevin will meet soon with Commissioner Fritz to report on the SMILE study -- and he said his presence here tonight was to determine what message SMILE wants to deliver to her.

Kevin said that we never got all the information we wanted from Parks about the Community Center building usage, but it looks as if we might be able to continue what Parks is doing there, thanks to our not having to pay staff at the City wage scale. The building will need some upgrading, and it has not been answered whether SMILE operation of the building would vacate the grandfathering of code shortcomings, meaning that the building could have to be brought up to code at our expense.

Kevin commented that he would like to frame the conversation with Commissioner Fritz in a way as to try to understand how the Parks Department now views our Community Center. President Hoffnagle volunteered to assist with an evaluation of the Center's budget from the standpoint of an experienced Parks Department administrator, which she was.

Bradley Heintz said that the Center building is in poor shape and will need much work. Kim Calamne has discussed program options and experiences with him, he added, that pose issues and challenges. He has learned that the programs there struggle to

cover their costs. He concluded that he does not favor SMILE operating the Center, but he thinks SMILE should be involved and supportive.

Kevin explained that the option we studied was that the City would retain ownership of the building, while SMILE would staff and operate it. "So, infrastructure concerns may not be a deal killer." Nancy Walsh, also a former Parks Department administrator, pointed out that the building is now listed on the National Historic Register, but SMILE could and should have an active involvement in the Center. Pat Hainley remarked that he is not enthusiastic about operating a building we do not own, based upon our experiences with the Parks Department involving the Oaks Pioneer Church.

Mat Millenbach said that he feels taking on operation of the Center is beyond us, but an active partnership is practical. There followed a discussion about the opportunity and practicality of ownership of the Community Center building. President Hoffnagle endorsed the idea of approaching the Parks Department about active participation in the Center.

The Board then formally endorsed Kevin Downing's proposal on how to approach his upcoming meeting with Commissioner Fritz, by a unanimous show of hands.

Next was a Land Use Committee update from its Chair, Ellen Burr. The Tacoma Street driveway issue may be resolved, per an e-mail sent to the Board before tonight's Board meeting. The Verizon cell phone equipment upgrade has been approved by the City, with the proviso that equipment must be painted to match the building it is on at S.E. 13th at Tenino, and if that building's color changes, the equipment color must change to match it.

Michael Hayes, who is on the Portland Regional Comprehensive Plan Committee, said that there will be monthly meetings for the next fifteen months on the zoning revisions to provide a better outcome. The first meeting was this week, looking at "ways in which buildings can fit into neighborhoods better". The focus on the group is "centers" in the new Comprehensive Plan. Ellen Burr remarked that she is concerned about the participation in this group of developers and real estate businesspeople -- she would like all interests to be balanced, and she hopes they will be. Ellen then went on to recap the February General Meeting presentation on downzoning options in north Westmoreland, for the benefit of Board members who were not present for it.

Bob Burkholder announced to the Board details of Disaster Preparedness Workshops planned, and he told of the elements to be discussed. This is an outgrowth of the NET Teams south of Powell and west of 82nd. One session will be at SMILE Station, and he hopes SMILE will be a sponsor, and allow the meeting to

take place here rent-free. Nancy Walsh moved that SMILE allow the Preparedness Committee to use SMILE Station, use the SMILE name in promotion and advertising, and sponsor it. Mat and Bradley simultaneously seconded the motion, which then passed without objection.

Nancy Walsh next reported on Sundae in the Park this August. She has spoken with the movie executive at Parks -- and learned that no outdoor movie is possible at our event this year, because a Parks Department couple is getting married on the first Sunday in August, and nobody in Parks will be available that day due to the wedding.

Nancy reported that the Sundae in the Park ad-hoc Committee has started meeting, and has proposed raising the price of the ice cream sundaes to 75 cents, with (for the first time) 25 cents of that going to SMILE to help pay for the ice cream, which has gone up by \$6 per container. Thus Loaves and Fishes would receive the same 50 cents per sundae they have been, and SMILE would recoup some of its cost for ice cream. The Committee also proposed reviving the program by which local merchants could sponsor the stage, and have their banners on it. Nancy said she would work out a "rate card" for that.

Brian Posewitz updated the Board on the bike rack it authorized for SMILE Station at the request of Gerri Sue Lent. The City has such racks and we have acquired a couple, but John Fyre, a blacksmith as well as a Board member, has made an excellent decorative one to mount out front by the flagpole instead, if the Board approves. Brian moved SMILE install John's rack as proposed, and form a committee of Bob Burkholder, John Fyre, Lori Fyre, and Gerri Sue Lent to determine what to do with the City bike racks we acquired. The motion was seconded by Pat Hainley, and passed unanimously. (Bob Burkholder installed John Fyre's bike rack the following day near the SMILE flagpole.)

Brian Posewitz turned to the Sellwood Gap Project, in which he is involved. He personally delivered notifications to residents and property owners in the immediate vicinity of the Sellwood Gap of the Springwater Trail, to alert them of the public planning event for it. He requested SMILE reimburse his \$75.84 printing and postage costs associated with distributing that notification. Eric Norberg moved that SMILE reimburse Brian this amount; Michael Hayes seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

There followed a lengthy discussion of how informational items are prioritized in "The Neighbor", the official newsletter of SMILE, printed in monthly editions of THE BEE. The discussion originated from Ellen Burr's distress that her February submission from the Land Use Committee was bumped from the newsletter by a large required legal notice; Eric Norberg

pointed out that except for the February and March issues, in which SMILE was evidently required to print this large legal notice, there otherwise is generally plenty of room, and it is probably not necessary to have a lengthy discussion about what was a very unusual situation. The prioritizing of what is printed was explained, and no specific action was taken.

Finally, Nanci Champlin of the S.N.A.C. Committee was present to present the Master Plan for the "Oaks Bottom Overlook Park". SMILE is proposing for a small section of the curve where S.E. Bybee Boulevard turns to become S.E. 13th Avenue. This Master Plan is necessary to assist the S.N.A.C. Committee in obtaining grants to proceed with the park. Nanci took the Board through the Master Plan document, explaining the various parts of it and the rationale behind it. There followed some Q-and-A involving Board members to clarify details in the plan.

Brian Posewitz made a motion to prohibit the posting of community announcement signs in this park. The motion failed for want of a second.

Mat Millenbach then made a motion that SMILE approve this Master Plan, with these revisions: (1) That it be investigated how the visual appearance of the infrastructure of electrical service there can be minimized; (2) That SMILE develop a sign policy for the park; and (3) that the mention of "ongoing maintenance" have deleted from it reference to a lawnmower, since the mower referenced is no longer in SMILE's possession. Michael Hayes seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously.

There being no other business, President Hoffnagle declared the meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.