

SMILE BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2014

SMILE Station

blog

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procedural

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

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

SMILE President Gail Hoffnagle called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm, and began by asking for introductions around the room. She then introduced Ms. Marty Stockton of the City of Portland, to present and discuss the city-proposed downzoning of north Westmoreland.

Stockton gave the background of the proposal, which is based on the current uncertainty of the construction of a Harold Street MAX Station -- the original motivation for the upzoning to increase density in the area a decade and a half ago. The new City Comprehensive Plan process gives the opportunity to correct the zoning based on the TriMet intention to postpone indefinitely the construction of such a light rail station in north Westmoreland.

Stockton told how such proposals and decisions are approached. She showed maps of the current and proposed zoning, and went over this area street by street in detail, getting comments from the some-20 residents in attendance as she went. She now seeks public comments on the proposal by April 11, to be sent to her at: marty.stockton@portlandoregon.gov. This summer, the whole Comprehensive Plan will be out for public review; and this fall, public hearings on the plan will take place before the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission.

President Hoffnagle called for the Board to review the minutes of the February SMILE Board Meeting; one correction was offered; then John Fyre moved, and Nancy Walsh seconded, that the minutes be approved as amended. The motion carried without objection.

Nancy Champlin made a report from the S.N.A.C. Committee, which she began by defining the committee. The recent open house on the Sellwood Gap of the Springwater Trail was well-attended. The public comment period on the amenities proposal for the Gap ends on March 31; comments can be made on our general website: www.SellwoodMoreland.org. Concerning our proposal for an Oaks Bottom Overlook pocket park at the Bybee curve to 13th, there will be a public presentation on April 11. S.N.A.C. is also looking into urban farming options in our neighborhood.

Brian Posewitz next made a report for the Transportation Committee he Chairs. The 25 MPH construction speed limit is now in place on Tacoma Street, and shortly the restriping of the S.E. Tacoma and 17th intersection eastbound will take place. He said he has also looked into the 19th Avenue "Bike Boulevard" now being implemented, and has found it controversial. A "hawk" signal and curb cuts are expected this year at Tacoma and 19th; a rapid flash beacon is to be installed at Bybee and 19th. Other features are planned. He said he knows some residents still don't like this Bike Boulevard.

Bob Burkholder told the Board that a disaster preparedness workshop is still planned at SMILE Station on May 13 ("Helping neighbors get prepared"), and other related workshops will take place at other locations around Inner Southeast south of Powell.

President Hoffnagle observed that the May Board election is a month and a half away, and she proposed appointing John Fyre, Bob Burkholder, and Diana Richardson to the SMILE Elections Committee to gather candidates and conduct the election.

Nancy Walsh reported for the Sundae in the Park ad-hoc Committee, which meets on the second Wednesday evening of each month through July, 7:30 pm -- upstairs at SMILE Station if it is available; downstairs, if it is not. Dana Beck is again arranging the entertainment acts; the Parks Department will provide a movie after all; Parks will bring and install the stage starting at 10 am that day in Sellwood Park, as well as porta-potties and the Climbing Wall. Nancy said the Committee is seeking younger community members to join it, to continue the Sundae in the Park tradition.

Gail Hoffnagle announced that a painting has been donated to SMILE, and we will accept it and write an acknowledgement for it -- as a 501c3 nonprofit, a gift to SMILE is tax deductible.

Gail told the Board she has been investigating the Columbia Sportswear ten-year grant for Sellwood Park. The "improvements" allocation is accumulating, and Parks hopes to spend it on "prominent projects" in the park in years 8 through 10. It is unlikely these improvements will include repair of the roof over the Sundae in the Park ice cream serving area, though, which does not resolve County Health Department concerns about bits of the vegetation on that steep roof potentially winding up in ice cream sundaes.

There being no more business on the agenda or offered at the meeting, Pat Hainley moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Nancy Walsh seconded the motion -- which carried without objection at 9:26 am.