

SMILE BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2014

SMILE Station

blog

procedural

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ellen Burr; Nancy Walsh; Brian Posewitz; Miriam Erb; Corinne Stefanik; Nancy Champlin; John Fyre

SMILE President Gail Hoffnagle called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm, and began by asking for introductions around the room. She then asked the Board members present to review the minutes of the March Board meeting. Some corrections were noted, which Secretary Norberg said he had already found and corrected, subsequent to printing these minutes, and the corrected version is already on the SMILE procedural website. Ellen Burr moved the minutes be approved as corrected, and Nancy Walsh seconded the motion, which carried without objection.

Amy Higgs, of the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, was first on the agenda, with a report on the upcoming sewer repair project in Sellwood, and in Westmoreland south of Reedway Street. Higgs said the B.E.S. has identified the "worst 2%" of sewers in the city for repair, and ours are included (14 other neighborhoods comprise the rest -- presumably including Woodstock and Eastmoreland, where such work is nearing completion). Here, the project will run from late September to November of 2015, with much pipe to be replaced. Construction will last several weeks in each affected area; she displayed the project map of our neighborhood. Door hangers will be left on homes in each affected area to alert to what will be happening.

Higgs explained how the work will affect properties; local access will continue, but there will be no street parking during construction in the affected areas, and residents may have to park elsewhere overnight in order to be able to leave without delay in the morning. There will be some nightwork. After the work is done, the streets will be left in the same or better condition, "though they may not be prettier". Residents can sign up on a listserv for constant updates on the project; and an inspector on-site at each project can answer any questions.

Ellen Burr arose next for a discussion of a planned new apartment (or condo) proposal for 2025 S.E. Harold Street. Josh Patrick of Metro Homes NW appeared at the meeting to discuss the project. It is to be a three story, six-unit building -- two units per floor -- with three parking spaces in the rear, accessed from the alley extending east from the middle of S.E.

20th between Harold and Insley; the alley will only be improved, most likely with gravel, between 20th and the new building. The building will be 6,200 square feet; 950-975 square feet per unit. "Similar to the Ellis condos, but quite a bit shorter". e was unaware of the city's planned downzoning in north Westmoreland, by which this property will be zoned R5 within two years, and at that point will represent a nonconforming use.

The front setback of the structure will be 22 feet to the porches; the rear setback is to be 38 feet. He brought along architectural drawings to show to anyone interested, and answered questions from attendees. The structure height will be under 40 feet, total. He is expecting the units to be sold as condominiums. Ellen Burr concluded this discussion by giving a brief Land Use Committee report.

Brian Posewitz next led a discussion of the "Marketplace at S.E. Clatsop and 17th"; the applicant, John Rueschenberg of Stone Cottage LLC (a business which replaced the Twin Paradox Coffee Shop) was present for the discussion. He has applied for a permit from the city to close Clatsop Street in the block west of S.E. 17th every Tuesday for six months for his commercial street market, a use which apparently is permitted by the city through the same process as a one-day noncommercial block party application. Brian explained the city's minimal requirements for such a permit, and his concern about the lack of process and neighborhood input in the permitting procedure.

Brian reported that Rueschenberg had made notifications to all residents between 17th and 16th on Clatsop and the two adjacent streets. Although we had expected the permit to be delayed until after the SMILE Board meeting, the market actually started the day before (May 20) -- via a temporary, one-time permit, it developed.

The market is now being promoted as benefiting Sellwood Middle School, but when Brian asked for detail on this, it turned out that Stone Cottage is donating 5% of the total revenue at its own booth in the market -- but for all the other vendors, participation is voluntary and not required by contract; "some will and some won't". Clatsop Street will be closed 2-9 pm for the market each Tuesday, to include setup and tear-down, but the market itself is only open about four hours each Tuesday. 35 vendors are participating at this time, and Rueschenberg said there were 350-400 attendees at the May 20th market -- "most, from the neighborhood". He conceded that he charges vendors for the space they occupy on the city street, but this apparently is within existing city rules.

The Board reaction to this situation was mixed, ranging from being very positive about the market to feeling that the impact on a residential street for half a year was unacceptable -- but

the Board seemed generally to agree that the city needs to refine and clarify the rules under which permits are granted; in particular, differentiating between one-time use and repeating use, and between noncommercial and commercial uses. Brian Posewitz will draft a letter expressing this concern for review by the Board, before it is sent to the city.

On another matter, Brian made a motion to allow himself, as Chair of the Transportation Committee, to ask the city to install a stop sign at the corner of Clatsop and 19th -- requested by the neighbors, and the only intersection on 19th south of Tacoma, on the new Bike Boulevard route, without any stop sign. Pat Hainley seconded the motion, which then carried unanimously. Brian concluded his section of the meeting with a brief Transportation Committee report.

Nancy Champlin, Co-Chair of the SNAC committee (with Elizabeth Milner), gave a brief report. It has been busy -- the committee has met its goals for the Sellwood Gap project, by engaging over 500 people in design and planning. There will be design meetings in June, and then the process will be finalized. The Oaks Bottom Overlook project is advancing. Corinne Stafanick, who is also on the SNAC committee, said that we have been given a split-rail fence, which has been installed at the park site.

Pat Hainley reported on the annual SMILE Clean-Up day last Saturday (May 17). It was very successful, as usual. Turnout was down a bit, "due to a mishap in delivering flyers in the neighborhood"; we received 68% of last year's revenue, but costs were down too (60% of last year), so it remained profitable. This is the longest continuous cleanup in the State of Oregon.

Nancy Walsh reported first on the Oaks Pioneer Church Committee, which she Chairs: The church has been high-pressure-washed for the first time in ten years, and needed it! She then reported on the Sundae in the Park Committee, which she also Chairs: August 3 -- it's always on the first Sunday in August -- will mark the 35th annual Sundae in the Park, in Upper Sellwood Park.

Our part of the event runs noon till 4 pm or so, after which Portland Parks will have entertainment in the early evening, followed by a screening of the classic film "Back to the Future" on the big outdoor screen starting at dusk. Nancy hopes all Board members will be there and help. She answered questions about how the event benefits Meals On Wheels, how nonprofits participate, etc.

President Gail Hoffnagle announced committee assignments for the coming twelve months. Those who wished to continue to Chair their committee will do so; changes have been made where necessary; Gail will attempt to help restart the Crime Committee with a meeting she will host on May 28, 7:30 pm, at SMILE

Station, open to all interested.

At the end of the agenda, the owner of the "Vintage Design Collective" (the former Masonic Lodge, across from the Boys and Girls Club on Milwaukie Avenue in Westmoreland), believed by the Secretary to be Anthony Becket, asked for a moment to speak. He said he is being harrassed by an unidentified person. Enforcement processes at the city are complaint-driven, and the anonymous person is siezing on minor code items and complaining about them, "so business is hampered, and the Montessori School has been evicted by the Fire Marshal". He doesn't know who is doing this, and he explained that he was appearing at our Board meeting to ask, if anyone knows who it is, would they please put them in touch with him, so he can try to work out the issues with them.

Brian Posewitz spoke up just before adjournment to welcome the newly-elected Board members on behalf of SMILE.

Pat Hainley moved the meeting be adjourned; Brian Posewitz seconded, and the meeting was adjourned with apparent unanimity at 9:39 pm.