

SMILE BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2014

SMILE Station

blog

procedural

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ellen Burr; Nancy Walsh; Brian Posewitz; Miriam Erb; John Fyre; Bob Burkholder

SMILE President Gail Hoffnagle called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm, and began by asking for introductions around the room. She then asked the Board members present to review the minutes of the June Board meeting. One spelling correction was found on page two, after which Matt Millenbach moved the minutes be accepted as amended, and Miriam Erb seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Ellen Burr, Board member who is Chair of the Land Use Committee, recapped the issue of the "street vacation" requested by Diana Richardson, and she recalled the on-foot inspection of the site of the requested "vacation" prior to the July SMILE General Meeting. She said that any other plans for the site are unclear, but added that PBOT had told SMILE it has no objection to the "street vacation", and no plans for the strip of land in question. Diana plans to develop her property across the street first, Ellen said, and may not get to the north side of Tacoma Street -- the area in question -- for a year or more.

There followed a Board discussion, and Diana Richardson distributed maps and discussed her plans for her properties. She said that it is believed commuters will "keep going, after leaving the bridge", and this has led her away from commercial development toward residential development, with included parking. Considerable additional discussion followed, with some apparent interest in the possibility of deferring the request.

Eventually, Mat Millenbach made a motion that "SMILE communicate to PDOT the preference for withholding further action on this request -- but not dismissing this request -- until the completion of the bridge, and the plans for the site are clarified." Bob Burkholder seconded the motion, which then carried, with 9 yes votes, no no votes, and one abstention.

Ellen Burr next presented a Land Use Committee update. There will be a report on the Portland Comprehensive Plan at the next General Meeting, August 6. The developer of the S.E. 20th and Harold condo plan apparently has been denied the use of the alley between Harold and Insley for driveway access to the

back of the planned three-story structure, so the plans for the building may now be to realign it on the lot. She said there are plans for an apartment building on the northeast corner of S.E. 13th and Spokane, and plans for a 74-unit apartment building on the northwest corner of S.E. 17th and Umatilla Street. She mentioned details about several other planned developments in the neighborhood.

Brian Posewitz next reported for the SMILE Transportation Committee, which he heads. The "Clatsop Street closure" letter previously requested by the Board -- to raise with the city the inappropriateness of granting a weekly commercial promotion street closure by simply using the procedure for a one-time noncommercial "block party". He will present the letter for the Board to consider at the August Board meeting. The meeting of his committee tonight before the Board meeting focused on planned TriMet bus route changes, to coincide with the start of light rail service next year.

TriMet has reversed itself and now plans commute-hours weekday bus service to and from downtown via the Sellwood Bridge; Bus 99 (McLoughlin Express) would divert from McLoughlin in both directions north of Tacoma, and travel Tacoma, the bridge, and Macadam, during commute hours -- with a stop or two on Tacoma to load and unload riders. The committee was pleased about that, although it would have preferred this new Tacoma Street service to apply outside commute hours and on weekends also.

However, the committee joins the north Westmoreland residents in concern over the loss of Buses 31-32-33 downtown -- TriMet intends to discontinue them on McLoughlin north of the Milwaukie light rail transit center. That means that north Westmoreland not only will not get its MAX Harold Street station, meaning that the light rail line will not be easily accessible to residents there, but they will lose 60% of their bus service, including 75% of the buses that go downtown. Brian wondered if the SMILE Board should take a position on this? With some encouragement by the Board members present, Brian said he would draft a letter for the Board to consider in August.

Posewitz also wants to write a letter to PDOT urging repainting of worn crosswalk paint, to improve safety for pedestrians. The Board seemed to think this is a good idea, but no vote was taken about it.

Nancy Walsh was next, reporting as Chair of the ad-hoc Sundae in the Park Committee. Handbills and posters have been printed; she went over the plans for the 35th annual Sundae in the Park on August 3. She asked Board members to please plan to be at Sellwood Park that day and help put on SMILE's biggest event of the year.

Elizabeth Milner was on hand to report for the SNAC committee, covering the Sellwood Gap and Oaks Bottom Overlook projects, among other things. Wilhelm's has given permission for an extension of the fencing at the Oaks Bottom Overlook "pocket park" at S.E. 13th and Bybee Boulevard; tables there will be installed in August. The "Parks Levy" bond renewal, if it passes, will fix the Sellwood Park pool house roof. She finished with details of a variety of other environmental issues.

President Gail Hoffnagale offered an update on her efforts to revive the SMILE Crime Prevention Committee. There was poor attendance at the second meeting of the committee, which was not well publicised -- but she plans another meeting, and thinks there is still interest. She is still seeking a chairperson for the committee.

With no other business on the agenda or offered by those present, Pat Hainley moved the meeting be adjourned, and Ellen Burr seconded the motion. Rather than hold a vote, President Hoffnagle asked if anyone on the Board had any objection to adjourning. No objections were heard, so she announced the meeting as adjourned, at 9:05 pm.