

SMILE BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2014

SMILE Station

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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; Miriam Erb; Nanci Champlin; Corinne Stafanek, 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 July Board meeting. Bob Burkholder moved the minutes be accepted as presented and Mat Millenbach seconded. After a brief discussion the motion carried unanimously.

Diana Richardson submitted a letter to President Hoffnagle asking for an opportunity to present a consultant at the next Board meeting to support her request for the vacating of a small strip of land on the north side of S.E. Grand Avenue between Tacoma and Spokane; neither the city nor Multnomah County have any objections, but SMILE voted to ask the city to postpone a decision on this request, and Diana would like SMILE to reconsider. Eric Norberg moved that SMILE withdraw all objections to Diana's request, to save her the expense of the consultant, and because, in his view, the weedy strip of land is without value or other reasonable use. In the discussion following, some Board members again wanted to see more specifics of the planned development on Diana's adjacent property. In the subsequent vote, 2 yes votes, 8 no votes, 1 abstention. The previous request by SMILE to delay the street vacation stands.

Ellen Burr presented a Land Use report, beginning with a summary of land use notices newly received from the city. One involved the removal of a tree at Relish Gastropub; another was a request for a zero setback for a two story garage structure to be built on a residential property on Clatsop Street. There was considerable discussion of the latter request. Ellen next touched on apparent plans by a prospective buyer of the "Farmhouse Antiques" and "Love Art! Gallery" buildings on the northeast corner of S.E. 13th and Spokane; reportedly a major multi-story development is planned there. She hopes for a conversation about this. Ellen also said neighbors on Division Street had employed public suggestion boxes for comments on development on their street; we can borrow these boxes for similar comments from our own neighborhood when Division Street neighbors are through with them.

Nanci Champlin next reported for the SNAC committee; the Sellwood Gap project is moving along quickly; the Oaks Bottom Overlook pocket park is progressing, and we are hoping to finish the park fencing north to Wilhelm's. There will be a celebration and salmon festival at Westmoreland Park, to mark the completion of the reconstruction of the north end of the park as wetlands, on the day before the Moreland Monster March.

Nanci asked the Board to pass a motion in support of the upcoming Parks Bond. Eric Norberg raised the question whether taking a position on a partisan election measure would jeopardize SMILE's 501c3 status; Pat Hainley said it would not, but that we are prohibited from endorsing candidates -- ballot measures are OK. Eric said although he supports the Bond, and has never voted against a Parks Bond, he believes endorsing election issues is improper for SMILE. Ellen Burr moved that SMILE endorse passage of the upcoming Parks Bond, and Mat Millenbach seconded. The subsequent vote was 9 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain. The motion carried.

Gail Hoffnagle then asked that SMILE establish an ad-hoc Emergency Preparedness Committee of unlimited duration. Gail made it clear that this committee would be separate from the neighborhood NET teams, and said that Bob Burkholder has already agreed to Chair this committee. Mat Millenbach moved the committee be established, and Pat Hainley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Nancy Walsh gave a brief Sundae in the Park Committee report. There were at least 2,000 people at the event this year -- perhaps many more than that. Rent-A-Center and Umpqua Bank helped with the needed freezers. Over 800 people stayed for the Movie in the Park at dusk -- the biggest crowd for that to date, by far. The 35th annual Sundae in the Park was very successful.

Brian Posewitz reported for the Transportation Committee: The city is still rejecting a stop sign that citizens have been requesting at S.E. Claybourne and 18th in Westmoreland. The "19th Street Bike Boulevard" construction is advancing. The re-stripping of lanes on Tacoma at 17th is to begin next week.

Brian Posewitz presented to the Board the letter he promised to write for the Board to send to the city asking for some improvements and clarifications to the public street closure policy, so that rules for one-time block parties would no longer also apply to weekly street closures for commercial purposes. The latter needs much more public notice and input and improved procedures. Eric Norberg moved the letter be adopted by the Board and sent to the city; Nancy Walsh seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Brian also presented another letter to the Board for its

adoption, concerning TriMet's planned bus service changes affecting Sellwood. Eric Norberg said he thought the letter should also represent concerns in Westmoreland, which center on the loss of 60% of all of its bus service when light rail opens, despite TriMet's decision to postpone indefinitely building the Harold Street light rail station in north Westmoreland.

There was some hesitation amongst Board members to add this concern to the letter, so Eric pointed out that at the very least, to avoid having TriMet think SMILE is fine with the planned loss of buses 31-32-33 to north Westmoreland (as well as to Brooklyn, which neighborhood is equally upset about it), we should at least express disappointment about this decision. Brian said he would add this disappointment to the letter. With that stipulation, Corinne Stefanek moved the SMILE Board adopt and send the letter to Tri Met; Nanci Champlin seconded, and the motion carried unaimously.

Gail Hoffnagle then said she would like to distribute a survey to the neighborhood to determine public attitudes here to current issues concerning development -- demolition, parking, etc. If SMILE is to take a position on these, it would be valuable to have the force of demonstrated public opinion behind that position.

Pat Hainley commented that there are limits as to what you can get people to do to restrict their use of their own property. Ellen Burr remarked, "Our focus should be on participating in the city Comprehensive Plan process"; the Mixed Use Committee, which she attends, today showed signs of advocating the sort of zoning improvements we support.

Nanci Champlin endorsed pursuing the city Comprehensive Plan process, but added that that would not preclude surveying our own neighborhood's public opinions on the issue and taking immediate positions as a result. Corinne Stefanek advocated supporting the Eastmoreland Neighborhood Association position on demolition. Further discussion concerned how the survey might be distributed and returned; there was a suggestion that we could involve the SWBA (Sellwood Westmoreland Busilness Alliance business association) and have surveys returned to local businesses, who would collect them and turn them in to us. The discussion went on at length concerning many different aspects of land use issues surrounding the whole matter of development rules and practices.

Miriam Erb then moved that SMILE support the Eastmoreland Neighborhood Association position on demolition. Nanci Champlin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no other business on the agenda or offered, President Hoffnagle declared the meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.