

# **SMILE General Meeting minutes**

August 5, 2020

Via ZOOM, online

Main Website

[www.SellwoodMoreland.org](http://www.SellwoodMoreland.org)

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Procedural

[www.SMILErecords.org](http://www.SMILErecords.org)

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Simon Fulford, Vice President; Eric Norberg

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Burkholder; Julie Currin; Rhea Smith;  
Elaine O'Keefe; Priyesh Krishnan

**SMILE MEMBERS ATTENDING:** R. Corless, Gail Hoffnagle, Juliana James,  
Scott Kelly, Robinette Fitzsimmons, Vikki DeGaa, Neal Spinler, David Ashman,  
Kari and Nathan Kohrmann, Alison Daniel, Jim Friscia, Ayomide Nikzi,  
Miranda Robinson, Louise Orrin, Jim Adriance, Leroy Eadie (of Southeast  
Uplift), Louise Currin, Carmen Vannieuwerker

Vice President Simon Fulford, as presiding officer, called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. He began the meeting by announcing that this was the annual General Meeting, involving the election of SMILE Officers and Board Members, postponed from May due to the COVID-19 pandemic (a circumstance which had cancelled that meeting). The election is now set up and supervised by Southeast Uplift in our virtual Annual Meeting, with online and in-person voting. He touched on the meeting protocols: Please stay muted unless you want to speak, and then hold a thumb up in front of the camera on your computer (or otherwise signal) to show you have raised your hand to speak, and he will unmute you, if you haven't unmuted yourself, when it is your turn to speak.

With 24 people present, of which at least 20 were SMILE members – forming a quorum – and with the July 1 General Meeting minutes e-mailed out and also shown on his screen, he asked for a review of the minutes. Scott Kelly moved acceptance of the minutes as submitted, and Rhea Smith seconded the motion, which then carried unanimously.

Simon Fulford next invited Priyesh Krishnan, a member of this year's SMILE Election Committee, to introduce and lead the part of the meeting devoted to the Board election. Priyesh described the procedure, and introduced Leroy Eadie of Southeast Uplift, who was present to assist with and supervise the election. At the conclusion of this meeting there was to be announced a 24-hour online voting opportunity – and, for those without online access, or who just prefer a paper ballot, Leroy will sit at a table at SMILE Station between 4 and 6 p.m. on August 6 to take paper ballots. Leroy will then gather all the online and paper ballots, and Southeast Uplift will tabulate all the votes and announce the outcome of the election on Friday. ***[The election outcome is recorded at the end of these minutes.]***

Priyesh thanked his committee members, and then asked if there were any further nominations for any open Board seat (Officer or at-large) to add to those already made. There was no response to that request, so one of the nominees for an at-large Board seat proceeded with a self-introduction: Juliana James, a seven-year resident and retired teacher, said she loves the neighborhood and wants to contribute to the community, which is why

she is running for a seat. Nominee Eli Arnold, a neighborhood resident with an extensive background, was working and could not be present this evening, but had submitted a biography, briefly read by Vikki DeGaa. Next to speak was Alison Daniel, a one-year neighborhood resident after having obtained her Masters Degree (Science and Policy); she enjoys walking the neighborhood with her dog, and now wants to give back to the community. Elizabeth Milner is running for re-election, but could not be present this evening because she was working at Sellwood Community House, so Vikki DeGaa read a brief statement she had submitted.

At this point, Gail Hoffnagle, who had recently resigned from the SMILE Board to concentrate on her activities at the Sellwood Community House wondered if being an employee of the SCH would present a conflict of interest for Elizabeth Milner in continuing her Board presence at SMILE, in view of the fact that SMILE administers a dedicated fund to support SCH. Leroy Eadie of Southeast Uplift said that Elizabeth meets the SMILE Bylaws' criteria for SMILE Board service, and recusal from any vote affecting SCH would be appropriate and would eliminate any perceived conflict of interest.

Next to speak, on her at-large candidacy to the SMILE Board, was Elaine O'Keefe, current Board Member and SMILE Webmaster; she keeps the main SMILE website and our Facebook page up to date, and maintains and communicates with an e-mail list of some 1,700 names; she is also a member of our Transportation Committee; she concentrates on the business side of SMILE, to benefit the community. Neal Spinler was the nominee next to speak; he is Executive Director of a nonprofit which serves 300 kids and a number of artists; he got his MBA from the University of Madison, Wisconsin, and loves the Sellwood-Westmoreland neighborhood – it reminds him of small towns he has lived in. He is renter.

With four two-year at-large Board seats to fill, plus two additional partial (one year remaining) seats to fill from resignations, there were exactly the same number of candidates as open seats. Priyesh asked again, for a final time, if there were any additional nominations. At that, former Board Member and longtime Chair of the Sellwood Concerts in the Park Committee Jim Friscia, commenting that he liked to see some competition in an election, offered to run to provide one more candidate than open seats. He introduced himself as a 30+ year resident, and his goal is to increase the diversity of neighborhood voices in SMILE.

Remaining to be heard from were the four Officer positions, for which there was only one candidate each. Simon Fulford, Vice President, was seeking the Presidency, a position he has filled while Vice President after the resignation of our President, who bought a home in Oregon City and left the neighborhood; he said he has been involved with SMILE for some three years now, has worked for nonprofit organizations his whole life, and would like to continue his dedication to SMILE and to the Sellwood-Westmoreland neighborhood.

Running for Vice President (having resigned from the Board to do so) was Bob Burkholder. He said he is a 16-year resident of the neighborhood, has been on the Board for ten years, is on the Emergency and Land Use Committees, and attends other committee meetings as well. He is part of the neighborhood "NET" Team.

Eric Norberg, running again for Secretary, said he enjoys keeping accurate records of SMILE meetings, and would like to continue to do so. He has been on the SMILE Board

for a quarter century, and has been a neighborhood resident since he and his wife Jane bought a house in Westmoreland in September of 1979.

Pat Hainley was running for re-election as SMILE Treasurer; he could not be present, but Vikki DeGaa read a statement he had submitted which pointed out that he has been SMILE Treasurer for 20 years, and a CPA for 44 years; he grew up in Sellwood, where his family's history goes back over a century.

That ended the candidate presentations, and at this point in the meeting Preyesh got together electronically with Leroy Eadie of Southeast Uplift and Elaine O'Keefe to finalize the ballot, and test its workability via a link on the SMILE main website. As that took place, Simon Fulford invited Ayomide to give an update, with Carmen, on the "Sellwood Square" street-closure and parking-space marketing options proposed through PBOT and discussed previously at the SMILE Board Meetings. Ayomide said the full weekend closures of S.E. 13th, originally proposed for a two-block space north of Tacoma, has grown to a four-block space due to additional merchant participation, but that's still awaiting a decision by PBOT. She displayed the new, expanded site plan for the proposal. She said participating businesses are now also waiting for the launch date of the "side-street plazas". Volunteers are needed.

Simon announced two upcoming Portland Office of Civic and Community Life trainings – September 10 for "Neighbors Together" (formerly "Neighborhood Watch") participants, and September 17 for Personal Safety Training.

Then Elaine O'Keefe rejoined the meeting to announce that she, Priyesh, and Leroy had tested the finalized ballot for online voting via the main SMILE website – [www.SellwoodMoreland.org/2020/08/05/vote-now-smile-2020-election](http://www.SellwoodMoreland.org/2020/08/05/vote-now-smile-2020-election) – and it had worked well. Elaine had already voted, as part of the test. The ballot was reachable through a "VOTE NOW" link on the main SMILE website. Leroy will be on hand at SMILE Station 4-6 p.m. tomorrow for the casting of paper ballots; the result will be announced Friday by Southeast Uplift.

With that, Vice President Simon Fulford announced the meeting as adjourned, at 9:05 p.m.

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## **ELECTION OUTCOME**

On Friday, August 7, Southeast Uplift announced that 129 online ballots, and 1 in-person ballot, had been cast in the election – by far the largest vote ever recorded in a SMILE Board election. The four unopposed 1-year-term Officer candidates were elected: Simon Fulford, President; Bob Burkholder, Vice President; Pat Hainley, Treasurer; Eric Norberg, Secretary.

The new at-large Board Members serving 2-year terms are Elizabeth Milner, Elaine O'Keefe, Jim Friscia, and Alison Daniel, all of whom will serve until May of 2022. The fifth and sixth ranked vote-getters were Julianna James and Neal Spinler, who fill the two partial remaining terms of Board Members who had resigned; their terms will expire in May of 2021, and they then are welcome to run again at that time. The one unsuccessful candidate will be contacted with an invitation to come to SMILE meetings, and to consider running again in May of 2021.