

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2020

Via ZOOM videoconferencing

Main Website

Procedural

www.SellwoodMoreland.org <<>> www.SMILErecords.org

OFFICERS PRESENT: Simon Fulford, Vice President; Pat Hainley, Treasurer;
Eric Norberg, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Elaine O’Keefe, Rhea Smith, Gail Hoffnagle,
Eriks Berzins, Elizabeth Milner, Julie Currin, Bob Burkholder

ALSO ATTENDING: R. Corless, Scott Kelly, Leigh Nunez, Ayomide Nikzi,
Jim Friscia, Heather Koch

Due to social distancing measures ordered by the State of Oregon to avoid spreading the COVID-19 coronavirus, this meeting was conducted online using the ZOOM application, with advance notice of the meeting having been made online – advising how any interested persons could join it by requesting the admission code, and as noted above, a number did.

Vice President Simon Fulford called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m., and began by explaining the procedures and protocols in effect for the meeting. Although he determined that a quorum of the Board was indeed present, he said he was postponing the review of the minutes of the previous meeting until the August meeting.

Scott Kelly and Ayomide (“Ayo”) Nikzi were present to pursue a request that the SMILE Board endorse a letter in favor of the PBOT “Sellwood Square” proposal to allow uses of the public right-of-way by merchants to expand their customer footprint. Scott said this is still an evolving project. He commented that one local resident had asked for a community survey on this project, to get input from the community on it, but doing so is not practical in the tight time frame proposed. Ayo said that she would be meeting with the Sellwood Moreland Business Alliance the following day to discuss and describe the proposal. She said that that has been some talk of making the weekend street closure – part of this proposal – of S.E. 13th, begin on the north side of Tacoma Street, instead of a bit further north. “It’s a work in progress; they’re trying to move this as fast as possible.”

Simon Fulford asked how business access, handicapped access, parking for business, and parking for residents would be handled, with these proposed closures – “and what about when it rains?” Ayo said rain covers are hoped for, and hot sun is also an issue. “As for folks with disabilities and how buses would be routed, we will talk more with PBOT about this; TriMet handicapped services might help.” Businesses might ask customers to park further away; “residents will be all right doing more walking”. Ayo added that there is a thought to ask PBOT about extending this project past its planned end date of November 1.

Bob Burkholder asked if this project is part of the publicized “Safe Streets Initiative”. Ayo said yes. Scott Kelly remarked that PBOT requires insurance for participants; Ayo said that

those who have applied to participate also apply for insurance – or, some organization or individual could provide it. Elaine O’Keefe asked what’s next to make this happen; the response was “letters of approval from SMILE and SMBA, a site plan, and insurance”. Julie Currin asked how easy it would be to adjust the plan, after the site plan is set? “Those elsewhere in the neighborhood can develop another site plan; if it is for an adjacent space, they can probably just add it.” It was conceded that working with TriMet on temporary route changes would be a more complex change. But, some “Healthy Business” permits have already been submitted and approved, and are now in use. Pat Hainley observed that there is not much parking already near Grand Central Baking, so this could be contentious for some in that vicinity. Gail Hoffnagle agreed that “pushback” from the community will likely come after the fact, since there is “not high community awareness” of this project yet. Elaine O’Keefe said, however, that she thinks neighbors will be understanding and supportive of businesses. Ayo remarked that disruptions are most likely in the daytime, and some expansions into parking spaces may be semi-permanent – while other businesses will only use the street for part of a day. Elaine O’Keefe moved that SMILE adopt the letter that was e-mailed to the Board Members previously, and after the seconding of the motion, the vote was 8 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain. The motion carried.

Jim Friscia was present to share creative thoughts about this project. “It could be a nice opportunity for live music by local musicians”; would the SMILE Board approve repurposing the money already allocated for the now-cancelled Summer Concerts for such a purpose? “There would also be a need for a stage and space.” There was some positive reaction to this idea from members of the Board, but no motion was made.

Simon Fulford brought up the matter of potentially renewing the registration of SMILE’s special website domain for the “SMILE Bricks” fundraiser. Elaine suggested renewing it for future use; Gail and Rhea agreed. Elaine made a motion that the domain be renewed for another year; Bob Burkholder seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

On the subject of the upcoming Board Election at the August 5 General Meeting, Elaine O’Keefe reported that “everything is posted and set up; we’re making a second push for candidates now.” Then, Gail Hoffnagle announced her resignation from the SMILE Board to devote her attention to the Sellwood Community House, and to provide one more open seat on the SMILE Board in time for the election.

Elaine said that there is a new election process, given the virtual nature of our current meetings: Candidates are submitting short statements and/or biographies; current members of the Board running for re-election will be sent the form for this; the forms are to be returned to Vikki DeGaa (her e-mail address is on the form).

Julie Currin gave a quick update on the Sellwood Community House. There was a brief meeting yesterday of the SCH Board; Gail has resigned from that Board as well, to focus entirely on Programs at the Sellwood Community House – and Jason is the new Chair. The SCH nominating committee is completing interviews with potential additional interim Board Members. A contract is being signed with the new bookkeeper. Julie thanked the SMILE Board for our help funding the agreement with Page Two Partners consultants, and hiring the new Interim Executive Director. The next SCH Board Meeting is September 28.

R. Corless reported there there is a small homeless camp on the Springwater Trail at S.E. 19th and Ochoco Street, about which there are some concerns; “we’re keeping an eye on it”. She met with a local Park Ranger and determined that their primary duty is cleaning the parks, but when issues arise, they only call headquarters about it. She then asked for time at an early SMILE meeting to focus on community safety; Simon Fulford agreed, but said that it would have to wait until after the August 5 meeting, since that meeting will be mainly devoted to the upcoming Board Election.

There being no other business, Fulford declared the meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.