

SMILE General Meeting minutes

September 2, 2020

Via ZOOM, online

Main Website

www.SellwoodMoreland.org

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Procedural

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Julianna James; Allison Daniel; Rhea Smith; Neal Spinier; Jim Friscia; Elaine O'Keefe

SMILE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: R. Corless, Robinette Fitzsimmons; Ayomide Nikzi; Claire Wilkinson; Rowdy Bossard

President Simon Fulford called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. He began the meeting by reviewing the August General Meeting minutes for those present, although a quorum had not been attained and no motion could be contemplated at this point to approve them. However, after the review, there were no responses when he asked for any objections or corrections. These minutes will be formally considered at a future General Meeting when a quorum is present.

Jim Friscia, newly-returned to the SMILE Board, was first on the agenda, to report on his initiative to bring live local music performers to the "Sellwood Square" street closures in Sellwood north of Tacoma Street on Saturdays in September – as underwritten, he acknowledged, by SMILE and local businessman Tom Brown. The first such performances were last Saturday, and he described the result as "good traffic; great music". He observed that the crowd dropped off on Nehalem Street late in the day, so he is hoping for the addition of some food availability on the closed section west of 13th to hold attendees.

Ayomide Nikza, who has been spearheading the "Sellwood Square" business-boosting concept, and was in attendance at this meeting, and commented that people last Saturday also expressed interest in having live music on Sunday, also. Friscia pointed out that Saturdays are earmarked for professional musicians in the neighborhood, and SMILE [and Brown] is sponsoring that, but he added that if Ayomide would like to offer unpaid "open mic" performances on Sundays in these venues, she certainly would be welcome have them. General discussion on these details continued for some time.

President Fulford introduced the next agenda item by reporting that he had gotten e-mails from neighborhood residents concerning possible layoffs in the Sellwood Library, which has been closed to the public since last March. He then read a Multnomah County Library press release he had received just today, which assured that "significant layoffs have been avoided, by eliminating vacant positions and reassigning personnel", among other things (although apparently there will be a few layoffs in the library system anyway). He then introduced Claire Wilkinson, who is associated with the Multnomah County Library system, and was appearing at the meeting at his request. She said the Sellwood Branch Library will remain

closed throughout the pandemic “because it is too small”. The library system, as a whole, will be offering new services for minorities and the disadvantaged, she disclosed, although none of those are to be offered in Sellwood. There was some general discussions on what these new services might be.

R. Corless reported on two upcoming city trainings, which had also been mentioned at the August General Meeting. A “Neighbors Together” training (this is the new name for “Neighborhood Watch”) will take place online on Thursday, September 10, involving participation by the Portland Office of Civic and Community Life, and the N.R.T. Officers of the Portland Police Bureau. The other training is “Personal Safety”, a broadening of the former program teaching personal protection to women; this virtual workshop will be open to all residents of all ages, male and female alike. Registration for both workshops is to be on the webpage of the Portland Office of Civic and Community Life. Otherwise, said Ms. Corless, who is Chair of the SMILE Crime Prevention Committee, the committee is continuing as usual with its activities. She noted that crime seems “a little down” in Sellwood and Westmoreland compared to the rest of the city. “It’s pretty quiet here.”

Pat Hainley announced that September is the last month of SMILE’s 2019-20 Fiscal Year, and “anyone with expenditures to suggest for the next Fiscal Year, let me know this month.”

SMILE Member Rowdy Bossard was in attendance, and asked to acquaint SMILE with his hope that SMILE Board would consider signing one or more of five prepared letters on “clean air” topics which other neighborhoods are already supporting, and which he said he would make available to the Board – but which are not for public dispersal at this time. “Portland Clean Air” is evidently the name of the sponsoring organization which has prepared these letters. It was not clear when the SMILE Board Members would be receiving these letters.

Pat Hainley had moved adjournment at the end of the agenda items, and just before Mr. Bossard had asked to address the meeting; so at the end of Bossard’s comments, President Fulford accepted Hainley’s motion – but since a quorum had not yet been attained, thus making the passage of a motion impossible, he declared the meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.