

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2020

Via ZOOM videoconferencing

Main Website

Procedural

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

OFFICERS PRESENT: Simon Fulford, President; Eric Norberg, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Elaine O’Keefe, Rhea Smith, Jim Friscia, Elizabeth Milner, Juliana James, Allison Daniel, Neal Spinler

ALSO ATTENDING: R. Corless, Rowdy Bossard

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 few did.

President Simon Fulford called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m., and began by noting that a quorum of the Board was indeed present, and proceeding to invite a review of the minutes of the August 19 Board Meeting. After that review, Elizabeth Milner moved that the minutes be approved as submitted; Juliana James seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

Then Elizabeth explained the need for a new Board Representative to Southeast Uplift, a role she had accepted, but is no longer able to perform. She pointed out that having a SMILE Board Rep gives us a voice in the Neighborhood Coalition. Jim Friscia said that he was willing to be one of two...and Neal Spinler said he was willing to be the other of two. R. Corless remarked that she might be interested in attending Southeast Uplift Board Meetings occasionally. Elizabeth told the Board that she would inform Southeast Uplift of Jim and Neal being our new dual Board Representatives to Uplift.

The next agenda item brought us Board Member Juliana James and her guest, Rowdy Bossard. Juliana said she likes the organization Rowdy represents, “Portland Clean Air”, made a personal donation to it, and thinks they deserve support. Rowdy said he is mainly working on diesel emissions at this time; the state pre-empts local action on this issue – “the city cannot do it”. Elaine O’Keefe shared that she was somewhat confused by the multiple letters sent to members of the SMILE Board by the organization. Rowdy remarked that the letters are to be treated as confidential until they are released, and the release date is not known.

Since one of these letters was addressed to the Union Pacific and centers on diesel pollution emitted in and near the Brooklyn Rail Yard, and inasmuch as this organization evidently wants SMILE to sign onto all these letters, Eric Norberg explained that our settlement terms ending our 50-year lawsuit against the railroad – which are, by court order, confidential, but which did contain some elements relating to diesel pollution – restrict our ability to

participate in letters to the railroad which could or would be in conflict with the terms of our settlement.

Elaine O’Keefe moved that we join “Portland Clean Air”, with the stipulation that SMILE cannot be signatory to any letter, action, or position, in violation of our legal settlement with Union Pacific. Juliana James seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention. Rowdy disclosed that, “‘Cascadia Action’ and ‘Portland Clean Air’ are one and the same.”

Scott Kelly is leaving the Chair position of the SMILE Transportation Committee after several years of exemplary service; he received many thanks and plaudits from members of the Board. We need a new Chair, and are seeking volunteers. Elaine said that she is Board liaison to that committee, but is not able to be Chair – but will be happy to help a new Chair, behind the scenes. The job could be handled with two people as Co-Chairs, it was suggested. New Board Member Allison Daniel expressed some interest in possibly being a Co-Chair, subject to finding out more about it. We will publicly announce the opportunity on our main website, said Elaine.

Elizabeth gave an update on “Moreland Woods”, as invited by President Fulford: There are no updates from the SNAC Committee on that subject, she responded. But SNAC has been taking care of the Oaks Bottom Overlook “pocket park” on the S.E. 13th-Bybee curve, and the SMILE-sponsored garden block along the Springwater Trail at the south end of Sellwood as well.

President Fulford presented a brief update about the Sellwood Community House: They are aiming for a November date for the update of their Board. SMILE will continue to have a seat on that Board – and he asked if any SMILE Board Member would be interested in filling the seat? No volunteers at this point. He added that they plan a Grand Reopening event on Saturday, September 26, which will be outdoors.

Jim Friscia gave a “Sellwood Square” update: The heavy wildfire smoke in Portland in mid-September forced a pause in the Saturday afternoon live music that SMILE has been helping to support, but the first two weekends went very well, with up to 75 in attendance at each performance. The brief hiatus due to smoke is expected to end soon, and he commented that he still could use help on Saturday afternoons with “setup” and “breakdown” of the concert equipment. Rowdy Bossard said he would be happy to help with that.

President Fulford asked for possible future Board Meeting agenda items. Nothing specific was volunteered. However, R. Corless – as Chair of the SMILE Crime Prevention Committee – said she had been in contact with the “Transition Project”, which runs the County’s “Willamette Center” by-reservation homeless shelter on S.E. Milwaukie Avenue, and they will probably have a representative at our next General Meeting on October 7.

There being no other agenda items, or matters raised by the members of the Board at the meeting, President Fulford pronounced the meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.