

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2020

Via ZOOM videoconferencing

Main Website

Procedural

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

OFFICERS PRESENT: Simon Fulford, President; Vice President Bob Burkholder; 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, Chris Timberlake, Adele Renauer, Rema Ghandour

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 7:37 p.m., and began by publicly welcoming Zack Duffly as the new Transportation Committee Chair. Then, noting that a quorum of the Board was present, he invited a review of the minutes of the September 16 Board Meeting. After that review, Neal Spinler moved that the minutes be approved as submitted; Jim Friscia seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

Then Bob Burkholder, the SMILE Board representative to the Land Use Committee, reported for the committee on behalf of David Schoellhamer, the Chair of the committee, who could not be present. He presented a letter of testimony addressed to the Portland Planning and Sustainability Committee, which had been developed and offered by the Land Use Committee for review and approval of the SMILE Board. Eric Norberg moved the letter of testimony be adopted by the Board and submitted; Bob Burkholder seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Jim Friscia next presented an evaluation of the public events we sponsor or participate in, suggesting that we need to reach younger residents. He made the suggestion that there should be a single “Events” Committee to be an umbrella for the planning and execution of “separate but integrated events”. There were favorable comments from the Board about this idea; President Fulford said he favors it as a way of broadening participation. Who would Chair such a committee? Jim said he would be willing to be Co-Chair to start, if Juliana James would be willing to share the duties. Simon Fulford said he would like to see the ground rules and plan for such a committee, for a vote at the next Board Meeting.

Friscia then turned to the subject of “SMILE communications”. Jim remarked that he has been involved in meetings on this subject; he reported briefly on the meetings, but indicated that he thought further discussion of it should be postponed until the next Board Meeting. He thinks a Communications Committee might be a way to “keep communications

consistent through various channels”. Elizabeth suggested the concept could be broadened to a “Communications and Outreach Committee”. More on this subject is planned for the next Board Meeting.

President Fulford asked Elizabeth Milner if there were anything new to report on the matter of the “Moreland Woods”. Elizabeth responded that the city has approved the requested rezoning of Wilhelm’s Portland Memorial’s north parking lot so that it, like the former south lot, could be offered for sale for development. There is still interest, remarked Elizabeth, in finding a way to acquire part of the “Moreland Woods” property north of Wilhelm’s – the portion that is not sought by Wilhelm’s for its own new, small, parking lot – to preserve for a public space or park; “but nothing definite is happening”. She added that the “Springwater Meadows” park space, created and maintained by the SNAC committee beside the Springwater Trail at the south end of Sellwood, “has been mowed several times, and maintenance is ongoing there”.

Pat Hainley was unable to be present to discuss his proposed budget for the Oct. 2020-Sept. 2021 SMILE fiscal year, so that discussion was postponed until the November Board Meeting. President Fulford said he would like to go over the budget proposal with Pat and the SMILE Finance Committee before then, and would try to arrange such a meeting.

Christina Timberlake was present to report on progress with the Oaks Pioneer Church rentals – they were up in August; September had a year-over-year 250% increase in rentals; and so far in October rentals are 435% up, year-over-year. In fact, she said, only one month this year has been behind the rentals of the prior year, and that was April, at the start of the COVID-19 coronavirus “quarantine” period, which may be responsible for it. She told the Board that the new booking software is “up and running, and working well”. It can be adapted to also handle bookings for SMILE Station, as well.

She reported a problem – some church renters are not wearing masks, which is troubling to SMILE personnel who are present during weddings and other rentals, but these hourly workers do not want to confront the renters about it during their event. She has prepared signs to post at the church on the subject. Simon agreed that we need to make the state’s rules clear to those who are renting the church from us.

As the end of the meeting approached, a Westmoreland resident, Adele Renauer [phonetically spelled – she did not sign in], asked to address the Board. It developed that she wanted to make a statement of support for Rema Ghandour in a competitive judicial race on the current ballot – it’s an open seat with two candidates, which she said is a rare situation. She then introduced Ms. Ghandour, who spoke briefly.

Before adjournment, R. Corless, SMILE Crime Prevention Committee Chair, asked for a moment to make a brief report on behalf of the committee. She said the committee is continuing to work towards community safety in various ways.

There being no other business, President Simon Fulford declared the meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.