

SMILE General Meeting minutes

December 2, 2020

Via ZOOM, online

Main Website

www.SellwoodMoreland.org

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Procedural

www.SMILErecords.org

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Juliana James; Jim Friscia; Neal Spinler; Elaine O'Keefe; Rhea Smith

SMILE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: R. Corless; Shaynna Hobson (Transition Projects); Erica Jensen, Arianna Paulson, Elizabeth Luthy; and Christian Lapainis and James Cruz (both of Portland Fire and Rescue)

President Simon Fulford called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. He began by reviewing for those attending the protocols for SMILE ZOOM meetings. No quorum was present yet, and by the end of the meeting none had been attained – so the minutes of the October and November General Meetings could not be considered or approved, and will be offered again – along with these minutes of this December meeting – for approval next month.

First to speak was Shaynna Hobson of Transition Projects, which is operating the “Willamette Shelter” on S.E. Milwaukie Avenue at Mitchell Street in Westmoreland for Multnomah County, which owns the property. She was appearing at the invitation of R. Corless, Chair of the SMILE Crime Prevention Committee. She presented an update on her nonprofit, Transition Projects, and the Willamette Shelter which it runs. All shelters in the metro area are now reduced to half capacity, to meet current COVID-19 requirements. Those offering food services to the homeless are still doing so, but all are “to-go only” at this time. Transition Projects is still providing severe weather shelter for those needing it. She went on to answer various questions from those in attendance. R. Corless concluded this agenda item by advising trying to establish a “neighborly connection” with homeless individuals in the community; and identifying for them private property, as needed.

Two Portland Fire and Rescue firefighters were present at this meeting – Christian Lapainis and James Cruz – and expressed concern with fires used for warming and cooking. Technically, all of them are illegal, but currently the city is not enforcing it. The fire department is concerned with safety for everyone – and “prevention is a priority”. The pair pointed out that the huge wildfire problems last summer here demonstrate how concerning illegal fires can be. “Illegal fires are often untended – which is very dangerous.”

Next on the agenda was the just-established new SMILE Events Committee. Jim Friscia reported that a Board has been established for this new committee, and its mandate is to embrace all SMILE events, and all events SMILE participates in. Now needed are volunteers to build a larger committee – to better distribute the work, and for improved diversity. General discussion followed.

President Fulford brought up the “Shop Local” campaign of the Sellwood-Moreland Business Alliance business association (SMBA). Elaine O’Keefe reported that SMILE had bought from SMBA and dispersed 25 of the 100 “Shop Local” lawn signs available, and has been helping SMBA with a social media campaign to encourage residents to buy and display the signs. She said that there are still some 40 signs available for purchase from SMBA.

At the end of the meeting, R. Corless announced that she would like to hear a report at the January SMILE meeting about the local N.E.T. team. SMILE Vice President Bob Burkholder is on that team, and seemed amenable to making such a report if SMILE wants him to.

There being no other business on the agenda or offered from the attendees, and with no quorum having been attained at any point in the meeting, President Simon Fulford announced the meeting as being adjourned at 8:47 p.m.