

SMILE General Meeting minutes

January 6, 2021

Via ZOOM, online

Main Website

www.SellwoodMoreland.org

Procedural

www.SMILErecords.org

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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; Elizabeth Milner

SMILE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: R. Corless

GUESTS: Blaine Little and John Teply of the Elisabeth Jones Art Center; Paola De La Cruz of Southeast Uplift

President Simon Fulford called the meeting to order at 7:36 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, November, and December General Meetings could not be considered or approved, and will be offered again – along with these minutes of this January meeting – for approval next month. However, Fulford did review the minutes of the December meeting for those present, and two misspellings were found and corrected. Our new Southeast Uplift representative, Padla de la Cruz, was in attendance via Zoom.

First to speak were John Teply and Blaine Little of the Elisabeth Jones Art Center, who were appearing on behalf of their own “Tree Emergency Response Team”. They explained that they “look at, and celebrate, trees that are vulnerable to be destroyed” – specifically, those which are likely to be, or are planned to be, removed by developers. They seek to rally neighbors to “save trees from developers”. Among other things, they plan events in which the trees are to be painted on canvas and be depicted artistically. They explained that “Friends of Moreland Woods” had helped put SMILE on their radar, and they are still meeting with that local organization. Bob Burkholder called the attention of the pair to developer plans to remove cedar trees at 1666 S.E. Lambert Street; the SMILE Land Use Committee has been concerned about that.

President Fulford, pursuing his interest in finding a way for SMILE to be of help to the homeless in our neighborhood if possible, told the Board that he had had a conversation recently with Portland City Commissioner Amanda Fritz on this subject, and had shared neighborhood concerns expressed at our December General Meeting. Fritz had echoed the comments from Shaynna Hobson of Transition Projects and R. Corless at that meeting – that providing meals is probably the most practical need for SMILE to address: “The main support needed now is around meals.” Locally, New Seasons Market is among the major sources of donated excess or discarded food to the homeless, according to Rhea Smith, who works there.

R. Corless, Chair of the SMILE Crime Prevention Committee, reported that “homeless camps locally are cleaning themselves up, because we asked them to.” She went on to discuss elements of her own outreach. “Things seem to be calming down a little bit.”

Concerning preparation of meals for the homeless, Neal Spinler asked if SMILE Station’s kitchen could be used for such a purpose? Pat Hainley assured the Board that ours is a professionally-equipped kitchen – “full grade” – but Elaine O’Keefe observed that the physical kitchen space is quite small, and “social distancing” would be difficult if more than one or possibly two people were involved; but the entire meeting space at SMILE Station could be used for sack lunch preparation using “social distancing”, if we could figure out to pay the costs of providing this service. Pat suggested we could solicit donations in our monthly newsletter in THE BEE; and President Fulford suggested our new Events and Communications Committees could help.

Taking another tack, Elizabeth Milner told the Board that the Sellwood Community House has received “lots of PPE” [personal protection equipment, to be used during the pandemic] from the Urban League, and can donate some of it to the local homeless.

Simon Fulford turned to Paola De La Cruz, our Southeast Uplift representative, to ask for her input on the related subjects just discussed. She summarized some of the projects that Southeast Uplift is pursuing for the “houseless”, but had no specific guidance for SMILE.

R. Corless remarked, “The main thing is just not to be angry at the homeless.”

Elaine O’Keefe told the Board that she would like to put a priority on supporting, and keeping alive, our many local small businesses.

Simon Fulford pointed out that it is important to keep the COVID-19 protocols front and center – it’s easy to let them slip!

To conclude the meeting, Rhea Smith reported that the new SMILE Communications Committee now has Twitter and Instagram accounts; the “handle” used for each is “sellwoodsmile”.

There being no other business or items on the agenda, and with no quorum having been attained during the meeting, President Fulford adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.