

## **SMILE General Meeting minutes**

**Wednesday, August 4, 2021**

**Via ZOOM, online**

Main Website

[www.SellwoodMoreland.org](http://www.SellwoodMoreland.org)

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Procedural

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**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Ayomide Nikzi, Vice President; Pat Hainley, Treasurer;  
Eric Norberg, Secretary

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jim Friscia; Neal Spinler; Sarah Bunger

**SMILE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** R. Corless; Bruce Garretson; James Kopp;  
Jim Adriance; Henrik Bothe; Lance Yellow; Glen Zimmerman; Aaron “Buck”  
Strong; Gary & Temma Hirsch; Dave Barrett; William Adriance; Laurie & Bruce  
Garretson; Michiko & Larry Parshalle; “Emily”; Marychris Mass

**OTHER GUEST:** Katie Dunham, Portland Parks and Recreation

***NOTE: There are no minutes for July 7, inasmuch as President Simon Fulford cancelled that meeting for lack of agenda items, and because the date for the meeting was in a holiday week, suggesting that low attendance would be expected.***

Vice President Ayomide Nikzi called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. She began by reviewing, for those attending, the protocols for SMILE’s ZOOM meetings, as well as presenting the evening’s agenda, and reviewing the minutes of the May 5th and June 2nd SMILE General Meetings.

Inasmuch as a quorum was present, Ayo asked for a motion to approve the May 5 minutes (the meeting at which our annual election had taken place) – and Pat Hainley made a motion for “approval as submitted”; Neal Spinler seconded; and Ayomide determined the motion had passed unanimously. Then Ayo herself made a motion for approval of the June 2nd minutes as submitted; Pat Hainley seconded; and again the motion passed with evident unanimity.

First on the agenda was an appearance by Katie Dunham of Portland Parks and Recreation, to address the Bureau’s specific strategic direction for its outdoor tennis courts. She pointed out that 94% of the community can get to a public tennis court within three miles of wherever they are. There are 103 public tennis courts, in 38 Portland Parks – but many are in fair or poor condition. She observed that most of the city’s high schools use PP&R tennis courts for practice and competition; the courts are also being used for pickleball, futsal, skateboarding, and other sports and community purposes. PP&R has this year been doing an analysis of tennis court uses and users. At this time, 18 tennis courts are recommended for repurposing or removal (because they are not in good condition, and/or there is insufficient demand for tennis there).

She said that, locally,

- Sellwood Park is a “community tennis hub”; youth tennis and P.I.L. competition takes place there.
- Westmoreland Park’s tennis courts have long been planned to be replaced by a small skateboarding park.
- Berkeley Park in Eastmoreland has an exceptional tennis facility, underwritten by the Ravello family.

Dunham said there is currently no funding available for the current plans or any new recommendations for the tennis courts; but PP&R is still developing recommendations and plans for them, in anticipation of a time when they will have the funds to proceed. The Bureau started a website in July for comments and a survey; they have received 1,100 survey responses as of August 1, and they hope to have final recommendations by the end of this year. She then opened the meeting to questions.

Henrik Bothe, who was recently featured in a *BEE* article on Sellwood pickleball, was first to speak. He lives near Sellwood Park; he used to play tennis and now plays pickleball. He feels 16 people playing pickleball on one tennis court makes better use of courts that he believes are only lightly used, if at all, for tennis. The upper courts near the swimming pool in Sellwood Park are in poor condition, he confirmed, and pickleball enthusiasts have been repairing them (evidently without authorization from PP&R to do so). The repairs are almost done, but must be completed and sealed before rain comes, or the improvements will be lost. Apparently PP&R has blocked further work or recreation on this court, because the repairs have been stopped. He asked that PP&R allow the repair project to be completed.

Will Adriance was next to speak. He is a tennis player, and feels that tennis is more popular here than has been suggested. Will said although the upper courts may not have been usable for pickleball in their recent condition, they **were** still usable for tennis – he plays there often, even in winter. He said he is now worried that if pickleball enthusiasts are paying to resurface the upper courts, that will result in an end to any tennis use of these courts.

Buck Stone followed, with the observation that more courts, and particularly more courts in good condition, “would mean many more pickleball players and probably more tennis players as well”.

Pat Hainley suggested that Sellwood Park have one pickleball court and one tennis court in the lower court area, and the same in the upper court area – which he thought would meet the local demand.

Dave Barrett was next; he said he plays both pickleball and tennis, and added that he believes that there are still a lot of tennis players here. “There’s room for both, but the condition of the courts is an issue for both.”

Katie Dunham concluded this discussion by assuring those present that PP&R is definitely looking to share tennis courts – “but programs, and high school users, have to be taken into consideration”.

Next on the agenda was R. Corless, Chair of the standing SMILE Crime Prevention Committee, which she would like the SMILE bylaws changed to rename the SMILE “Community Safety Committee”. She explained that this committee seeks to reduce crime and fear of crime, and get more people involved in community safety; she described the committee’s functions. She announced that the city Resource Line is 503/823-4000. She went on to report that there will be guest speakers on the subject of community safety at the September SMILE General Meeting. A member of her committee, identified only as “Emily”, then recommended residents obtain a “Faraday bag” to protect against unauthorized access to garage doors that are controlled remotely. She also recommended cars be secured, when parked, with “The Club”.

Vikki DeGaa was next to speak, telling of a new city program called “Shelter to Housing Continuum (S2HC)”, and she distributed a page of information about it, incorporated into these minutes by reference. She said that the city is trying to find more options for housing the homeless. Needed are: (1) code changes; (2) allowing public agencies to house the homeless in tiny houses, tents, and parked vehicles; (3) increasing housing flexibility; and (4) allowing unorthodox housing on private property.

However, in Sellwood, she said the city is considering repurposing the Sellwood Community Garden for such housing; since the garden plots there are a community resource, and the actual land space is small, Vikki instead favors the empty area just west of the Les Schwab store for this purpose – but, she added, it is private property, and would require a lease. She said if such housing were to be established, then the city would eliminate other local encampments that are a public nuisance – such as what is seen in Westmoreland Park’s south parking lot.

Ayomide next asked Jim Friscia to report on the ad-hoc SMILE Events Committee’s free summer concert program underwritten by SMILE and local businesses. Jim reported that the concerts have completed the first of two summer months with excellent attendance and community response. The concert by Marv and Rindy Ross last Saturday, he said, was the most successful one yet. He is looking for Board volunteers to staff the SMILE Table at select concerts in August.

With all agenda items completed, Marychris Mass then spoke up to report parking problems on Umatilla Street caused by renters nearby using the street to park. “Do we need permits in order to park in front of our own houses?” An unidentified man who was on the ZOOM screen with her said there are abandoned and stolen cars in some parking spots on Umatilla and the city isn’t towing them. R. Corless said she and her committee are willing to help with this. City permit systems are a possible solution, but each permit district is tailored in its specific details to address the need in each specific situation.

There being nothing else on the agenda, or from the floor, Pat Hainley moved the meeting be adjourned, and Jim Friscia seconded the motion. The motion carried, with evident unanimity, at 9:03 p.m.