

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2021

Via ZOOM videoconferencing

Main Website

Procedural

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

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Bunger, Elaine O'Keefe, Neal Spinler,
Bob Burkholder, Elizabeth Milner, Emily Pitts

ALSO ATTENDING: Vikki DeGaa, R. Corless, Tina Nunez, Gaylen Beatty, David
Schoellhamer

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.

President Simon Fulford called the August SMILE Board Meeting to order at 7:35 p.m., and began by explaining our meeting protocols, and announcing that the meeting was being recorded; and then he reviewed the agenda. After noting the presence of a quorum, he invited the Board to review of the minutes of the July 21 SMILE Board Meeting. After that, Pat Hainley moved that the minutes be approved as submitted; Ayo Nikzi seconded the motion; and, after the vote, Simon announced the motion as having carried unanimously.

Simon began the meeting by observing that the prevention of graffiti in the community has been aided by the painting of murals, and the painting of street trash containers. R. Corless reminded that the City of Portland will provide supplies and paint for graffiti removal. Recently, graffiti has appeared at Sellwood Park and near Oaks Amusement Park. Simon asked rhetorically whether SMILE has a role in the removal of such graffiti in public and private park areas.

Next came an update from the SMILE S.N.A.C. committee from Tina Nunez-Osterink. She reported that end-of- season cleanups are planned at Springwater Meadows on August 21 and 28, from 9 until noon; volunteers are welcome. She went on to suggest that SMILE have a “point person” for Springwater Meadows, Oaks Bottom Overlook, and for the garden at SMILE Station.

Reporting on Sellwood Community House were SMILE Board Members Sarah Bunger and Elizabeth Milner. Sellwood Community House is doing well, and has a full list of programs this fall. On Thursday, September 2nd, at 5:30 p.m., the facility will have an open house. The Community House catalog of programs is posted on its website. Simon asked, with respect to the sharp rise of COVID cases in the region with the arrival of the Delta Variant, if this turn of events has had any impact on the programs there. The answer given was that masks are required indoors once again, and the Community House will require proof of

vaccination from anyone eligible for the shot. As for youth under 12, SCH is “following P.P.S. protocols”. It was mentioned that Sarah Bunger is presenting a Book Club at the Community House.

After skipping the year 2000 altogether, this year’s SMILE Community Cleanup was to be held in late September, on the 25th. But the rapid rise of the highly contagious Delta Variant is raising concerns at Heiberg Garbage, without whose partnership we could not have the Cleanup. The question was raised with the Board: Should we again cancel the Cleanup this year? A vote was held on the question, and there were nine “yes” votes and one “no” vote, so it was decided that the Cleanup will again be canceled, and both Heiberg Garbage and the Eastmoreland Neighborhood Association (who for the first time was to be a partner this year) will be notified. Eric Norberg will announce this decision in THE BEE.

The next subject to be discussed concerned residential and business parking – in this case, specifically as concerns congestion around a new 75-unit apartment house now being completed just west of S.E. 17th Avenue between Spokane and Nehalem Streets. Emily Pitts raised the matter at the request of neighbors, who are protesting the lack of any on-site parking for tenants. Is there anything SMILE can do about it? David Schoellhamer, Chair of the SMILE Land Use Committee, was present to address this question – and he explained that if a project meets City Code, as this one does, SMILE cannot intervene unless the developer requests a variance; and in this case none was sought, since this project follows City Code. Pat Hainley sardonically commented that he thinks the city’s long-term plan for parking may be to sell permits to residents to park on their own street. Bob Burkholder pointed out that developers are encouraged by the city to have public meetings about their plans, but there is no requirement that they then act on any suggestions made. There followed some discussion of aspects of City Parking Districts.

President Simon Fulford announced that we will have an in-depth discussion on the subject of “authorized homeless camps” at the September 1st SMILE General Meeting. R. Corless commented that unauthorized homeless camps at Westmoreland Park are of increasing concern – particularly as concerns one specific individual, about whom there may be a need for a restraining order.

Simon went on to ask for suggestions of agenda items for upcoming SMILE meetings, and he went on to suggest a day-long retreat for the Board. Neal Spinler suggested that no retreat should be longer than four or five hours at the most; Elaine O’Keefe agreed that retreats need “tight planning”. Simon will follow up individually with Board Members on this matter.

Pat Hainley then moved the meeting be adjourned; Eric Norberg seconded the motion; and the motion carried with evident unanimity, at 9:02 p.m.