SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

December 15, 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, Zack Duffly, Jim Friscia, Bob Burkholder, Emily Pitts

ALSO ATTENDING: R. Corless, James Cruz

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 – including information on how any interested persons could join the meeting by requesting the admission code.

President Simon Fulford called the December SMILE Board Meeting to order at 7:33 p.m., and began by going over the meeting protocols, and announcing that the meeting was being recorded. After observing the presence of a quorum, he invited the Board to review the minutes of the November 17th SMILE Board Meeting. Following that, Sarah Bunger moved the minutes be approved as presented, and Ayomide Nikzi seconded; the vote to approve was unanimous.

The first item on the agenda was a discussion of the Board Retreat at SMILE Station on the previous Sunday, December 12. Simon asked if someone on the Board would summarize the Retreat for Bob Burkholder and Emily Pitts, both of whom had not been able to attend. Zack Duffly volunteered to do so, and presented the summary. Simon had previously sent Southeast Uplift's summary of the Retreat to all Board members by e-mail – a summary that is incorporated into these minutes by reference. Simon then gave his own perspective on the Retreat, and his concept of the next steps required. Ayomide commented that applying an "equity lens" to SMILE would be be helpful in moving the organization forward; but she feels Southeast Uplift's equity statement was "wrong, and too long", and she may take that matter up with Southeast Uplift.

R. Corless asked what an "equity lens" is, and Ayomide said that it's a series of questions applied to proposed actions, to assure fairness to everyone, including marginalized people. She added that "equity" is not the same thing as "equality": "Equity is the way to achieve equality." President Fulford will seek individual Board Member distillations of the "values" and "beliefs" statements in the Retreat summary, to help us determine what we should adopt as a Board. Ayomide said a "good equity statement would be about seventy words." Jim Friscia is setting up a Board Folder, online, to collect these.

President Fulford proposed a permanent name for what we have been calling our ad-hoc "Homeless/Houseless Committee": The "Housing Solutions Committee". He made a motion that the Board adopt this new name for the committee, and Ayomide Nikzi seconded the motion, which then carried with unanimity.

Fulford announced that the SMILE Land Use Committee is holding important public meetings on December 16 and December 20 concerning proposed new real estate developments. Jim Friscia suggested that both our Land Use and our Transportation Committees begin to record their ZOOM meetings for posting online for those who wanted to attend but couldn't – as SMILE does, for its monthly General and Board meetings. President Fulford said he agreed with the suggestion.

R. Corless, Chair of our standing Crime Prevention Committee, said the Neighborhood Watch Teams will continue to pursue established goals, and the committee is hoping to present safety clinics in the near future. But, she said, members are suspending visits to local homeless camps temporarily, due to safety concerns. On October 24th, the committee held an in-person public meeting at SMILE Station, and attendance was good. R. Corless wants a dangerous individual removed from the community; NRT Officer Green says the individual is very well-known to the police, and Green said he would go talk with him. A citizen attendee of tonight's meeting, who reportedly was victimized by this individual, spoke up and said the individual is "not one of a kind" in the community. Cruz said he had been attacked by the man, who caused \$2,500 damage to his car door in the process. The man, identified by Cruz as "Brandon Edwards", was driving a stolen car at the time he attacked him. Cruz filed a police report on the incident. Cruz then left the meeting "to put his children to bed".

R. Corless remarked that this individual "is a unique safety threat, but is NOT typical of all homeless"; President Fulford said he very much agreed.

Fulford then announced that despite some discussion about canceling the January SMILE General Meeting on January 5th, there would indeed be a meeting then, and there will be a guest speaker: Mike Vaughn, Multnomah County Assessor. Simon went on to announce that a woman named Grace had been selected and hired to be our part-time Assistant Manager of SMILE Station and Oaks Pioneer Church.

Treasurer Pat Hainley, who had e-mailed the lengthy 990 form for SMILE to the Board Members earlier in the day, said, "If there are no objections, I will mail this form in a week or so." No objections were expressed.

President Simon Fulford concluded the meeting by speaking highly of the leadership of Southeast Uplift, who had facilitated our Board Retreat the previous Sunday morning. Then Pat Hainley moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Bob Burkholder seconded the motion – which evidently carried without objection, ending the meeting at 8:27 p.m.