

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2022

Via ZOOM videoconferencing

Main Website

www.SellwoodMoreland.org

Procedural

<<>> www.SMILErecords.org

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Bunker, Elaine O’Keefe, Jim Friscia, Bob Burkholder, Emily Pitts, Zack Duffly

ALSO ATTENDING: R. Corless, Grace Radke, Chris Timberlake, Heidi Cropsey, and “503-313-7983” (*unidentified*)

Due to social distancing advice from 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, and in the SMILE Newsletter in THE BEE – including information on how any interested persons could join the meeting by requesting the admission code.

President Simon Fulford called the March SMILE Board Meeting to order at 7:35 p.m., and began by going over the meeting protocols, and announcing that the meeting was being recorded. No quorum had yet been reached, so the consideration and approval of the March Board Meeting minutes was postponed until a quorum could be attained.

The first item on the agenda was an “operations update” on the repairs being done to SMILE Station and Oaks Pioneer Church. Grace Radke reported that the mold remediation was now complete in the basement of SMILE Station, and we have started the process of the planned basement remodel. Rat remediation is underway. The roof is leaking at SMILE Station, and a re-roofing is needed! A grant funding request for capital improvements has been submitted to the Mayor’s office. Staff is actively seeking funding resources and exploring fundraising and grant sources.

At Oaks Pioneer Church, painting is completed; a \$10,000 reimbursement from the City of Portland is expected once the steeple, flagpole, and window protection are all complete. As for rentals of the church, we have updated our pricing, and added wedding packages to the church’s website. 2021 income at the church for the January-April period was \$29,425; for the same period this year the figure is \$47,290 at this point.

Chris and Grace have moved the SMILE office for the time being to the “Sellwood Desk Depository” on the southwest corner of S.E. 13 th and Umatilla Street, due to the increased use of the upstairs facility at SMILE Station, where the office had been temporarily. A volunteer appreciation brunch will be Sunday, June 12, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The office staff requested of the SMILE Board authorization to hire a “contracts lawyer” to review the Oaks Pioneer Church and the SMILE Station rental contracts, and the staff has reached out to Grayson Law, LLP, and Board Member Zack Duffly in connection with this request. The Board was also requested to authorize a raise for our part-time “hosts” – from \$15 to \$17 an hour – to facilitate staff retention.

President Fulford made a motion to authorize three legal consultations of the type requested, not to exceed a total of \$1,500 in cost without Board approval. Elaine O’Keefe seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

A raise of \$2 for our part-time “hosts” was approved by Treasurer Pat Hainley. The best bid for the replacement of the SMILE Station roof is \$23,000; we must replace the roof because the leaks are damaging the interior of the station, and are having a negative impact on the improvements already made inside. Simon Fulford made a motion to accept that bid, which includes gutter replacement, and to proceed with the needed repairs as soon as possible. Vice President Ayomide Nikzi seconded the motion, which carried without any objections or abstentions.

President Fulford reported briefly on a virtual meeting he had attended between neighborhood associations and the Mayor’s office: “Very congenial and productive”.

It was noted at this point that a quorum had been attained, and the minutes of the March 16th Board Meeting were presented and reviewed. Elaine O’Keefe moved that the minutes be approved as presented, and Jim Friscia seconded the motion, which carried with one abstention and no negative votes.

Simon Fulford then moved that the Board approve Tom Hickey as Chair of the new ad-hoc SMILE Housing Solutions Committee. Jim Friscia seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Next was an update from the standing SMILE Election Committee for 2022 by Elaine O’Keefe, concerning the upcoming Board Election at the May General Meeting (on May 4). The election has been announced in two newsletters, on social media, and in THE BEE. Posters have been designed and are being printed for wide distribution. However, we are lacking candidates, even for re-election, at this point – which is concerning.

Elaine has recently been our temporary delegate to the Board of Southeast Uplift. She reported that they did get their new bylaws approved (which SMILE had endorsed) – but it was a very contentious process. Elaine reminded us that our former SMILE Board Member, Nancy Champlin, is the new Southeast Uplift Executive Director. Elaine will no longer be representing SMILE at Uplift, so a new delegate is needed.

Although his agenda had included a review and action plan for the SMILE Board Strategic Plan recently adopted, Simon told the Board that he would defer any action plan to the new SMILE Board, since they will be responsible for putting it into action.

As the meeting came to a close, there was a quick report from the Land Use Committee that the testimony adopted by the SMILE Board opposing a major upzoning request for 5515 S.E. Milwaukie Avenue in Westmoreland had been ignored with a recommendation for approval by the city officer involved, despite its being in a known landslide zone on the lip of Oaks Bottom, and despite its not being served adequately by public transportation for such a zoning designation. The Land Use Committee will oppose granting the upzoning request at the City Council Hearing – originally set for May 4, but subsequently reset for Wednesday, June 1, at 3 p.m. at the request of the applicant.

Simon adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m., amid plaudits from the Board for his service.