

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2022

In person at SMILE Station

Main Website

www.SellwoodMoreland.org

Procedural

<<>> www.SMILErecords.org

OFFICERS PRESENT: Elaine O’Keefe, President; Elizabeth Milner, Vice President;
Pat Hainley, Treasurer; Eric Norberg, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Bunker, Jim Friscia, MacKenzie Torres,
Bob Burkholder, Emily Pitts, David Dugan

ALSO ATTENDING: R. Corless, Simon Fulford

Newly-elected SMILE President Elaine O’Keefe called to order the first “live in person” Board Meeting of SMILE in over two years at 7:33 p.m., with greetings to those present, and a special welcome to the newly-elected Board Members. In the annual Board election held at the SMILE General Public Meeting on May 4, overseen and subsequently reported on by Southeast Uplift, the new Board elected was announced as:

President: Elaine O’Keefe
Vice President: Elizabeth Milner
Treasurer: Pat Hainley
Secretary: Eric Norberg

Board Members, two-year term ending May 2023:

Sarah Bunker
Bob Burkholder
Emily Muro-Pitts
Dave Weber (*newly-elected to fill a vacated seat*)

Board Members, two-year term ending May 2024:

Zack Duffly
David Dugan (*newly-elected*)
Jim Friscia
MacKenzie Torres (*newly-elected*)

The first order of business was to allow all Board Members briefly to introduce themselves, and to express their interests and concerns concerning their SMILE participation. President O’Keefe remarked that Dave Weber was unable to attend tonight, but had met with her this week, and she outlined his own introduction for the Board, and his interests in participating in SMILE. Elaine then went on to outline her own expectation for the year “to focus on the business of the Board”, with assistance from the Vice President and Secretary in preparing and presenting the General Meeting, due to her chronic health problems.

It was apparent that a quorum was present, so Pat Hainley moved that the April Board Meeting Minutes, having been presented, be approved as submitted. Jim Friscia seconded the motion – which then carried with nine “ayes” and one abstention.

President O’Keefe next explained SMILE and its functions to the new Board. It is the oldest of Portland’s 95 neighborhood associations, and is apparently the only one that owns its own building, has a paid staff, and funds itself through rentals of its own building (SMILE Station) and as renting agent for the Oaks Pioneer Church, near the Sellwood Bridge – mainly rented for weddings, but also available for other occasions as well.

SMILE also has a large number of committees devoted to specific tasks and interests – but at any given time some are more active than others, since they are run by, and are composed of, community volunteers. Board Members are encouraged to get involved in one or more of these committees, as fit their interests. These committees do not act autonomously, and if a decision or some testimony is needed with SMILE’s name on it, it must be submitted to the Board for approval. Elaine gave some background on some of our most active committees. She also announced that new Board Member MacKenzie Torres has volunteered to be our new representative to Southeast Uplift; and David Dugan has volunteered to serve on the revitalized SMILE Finance Committee.

Treasurer Pat Hainley distributed a quick summary of SMILE finances, and discussed what it showed. He mentioned that we have just been the recipient of a city grant for the renovation of SMILE Station – the building we own – which will be very helpful.

Jim Friscia next reported on the new SMILE Events Committee – and gave the background on past SMILE public events and activities, highlighting past summer concerts in cooperation with PP&R’s “Summer Free For All” program, which we replaced during the COVID-19 pandemic with 12 small concerts in the neighborhood featuring local musicians in 2021, and eight more are planned for this year. In addition, we will receive only one “Free For All” large concert this year – in late July – and we are planning a “community celebration weekend” around it, using the “Summerville” title we have, with permission, borrowed this year from the Sellwood Moreland Business Alliance. Much planning remains to be done; Sellwood Community House is expecting to participate with a “Thursday Market” to begin that weekend, and that organization is also looking into the feasibility of reviving “Sundae in the Park” that weekend, also.

Newly-elected Vice President Elizabeth Milner explained plans for our monthly General Meetings in the next twelve months – each meeting is to be themed with a special event or topic; we need ideas, themes, and presenters for these meetings. For the June first meeting, she has a summertime theme, and is putting together a special meeting around activities and refreshments by nonprofit organizations. (Pat Hainley suggested for that meeting including someone who could explain applying to close a street for a Block Party, and how to put one on.) The discussion included brainstorming for possible other monthly themes this year – such as a civics night; inviting a representative of the city Charter Commission to explain and discuss the proposed changes to Portland’s city government; and a meeting focusing on city NET Teams, and training and preparation for major disasters, such as a plate-boundary earthquake. A “neighborhood party and SMILE Open House” was suggested for early fall. The new SMILE Housing Solutions Committee might be the focus of a General Meeting in the second half of the year.

With the agenda completed, Pat Hainley moved that the meeting be adjourned; Bob Burkholder seconded the motion. The vote to approve appeared to be unanimous, and without objection, at 9:07 p.m.