

SMILE General Meeting minutes

Wednesday, August 3, 2022

At SMILE Station, S.E. 13th at Tenino

Main Website

www.SellwoodMoreland.org

Procedural

www.SMILerecords.org

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OFFICERS PRESENT: Elaine O’Keefe, President; Pat Hainley, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Burkholder, Dave Weber, MacKenzie Torres

SMILE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Rachel Weber, Lance Goldberg, Joan and Fred Coates; Ann Howell, James Lewis, Lenora Pegoda, Joe Mase, Mee Quan, Jim Holley, Jeff Bergman, Donovan Pachall, Sam Giles, Emi Maarshita, Charmain Taves, Rose Corless, Chris Brown, John and Lane Cedue, Sarah and Christian Schroeder, Nancy Walsh, Katherine Keova, Aliza and Alan Eearnshaw, Paul Lewis, Ann Scott, Pat and Carrie Brunett, Dawn Caltunoit

VISITORS: Bruce Withycombe and Ryan Baker, representing QFC Market

President Elaine O’Keefe called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., and began by reviewing, for those attending, the protocols for SMILE meetings. She then invited introductions from everyone present, around the room – and called attention to the sign-in sheet for all attendees on the table near the entrance.

Establishing that a quorum was present, Elaine asked for a review of the minutes of the June 1st General Meeting (there was no July General Meeting, due to the Independence Day holiday). The minutes had been distributed with the evening's agenda at the sign-in table. No corrections or amendments being offered, she asked for a motion to accept the minutes as submitted; Lance Goldberg so moved; the motion was seconded; and then the motion carried unanimously.

President O’Keefe introduced Brian Withycombe from QFC for the featured discussion of the evening. He explained the state law still requires “if you sell canned and bottled beverages, you have to take the containers back”. 144 containers are turned in, on average, every day – currently deposited in a machine on the sidewalk in front of the store on Milwaukie Avenue. It draws loiterers and creates noise and sometimes an unsafe environment. QFC wants to switch the process to a “Dealer Redemption Center” of a type already implemented at New Seasons Market in Sellwood, involving a kiosk inside the store where customers can register for an account at which they could recycle/redeem up to 24 individual drink containers per customer per day. “The Dealer Redemption Center works on a credit applied to a registered debit card; immediate cash is not an option.” He added that the Mt. Tabor QFC Market has already implemented this plan, and “neighbors say they notice a dramatic difference in the cleanliness and safety of the area around the store, and in the surrounding neighborhoods.”

The plan would require removing a wooden cabinet from the QFC Loading Dock at the north end of the rear of the store, replacing it with a 20-foot Dealer Redemption Container. Since the bags would be removed from the loading dock by a truck, this plan would require a modification of the Good Neighbor Agreement between QFC and the neighborhood, which was why QFC was appearing at the SMILE General Meeting. The current agreement specifies no truck loading or unloading in the parking lot; food deliveries are unloaded at the curb on the north side of the store (although they often

drive through the parking lot in order to be oriented correctly at the north curb). QFC requests that the agreement be modified to allow the can and bottle truck to pick up the collected empties three or four times a week from the 20-foot container in the Loading Dock – “and ***only this*** truck”.

Mr. Withycombe asked for SMILE support of this change in container collection, and the modification of the Good Neighbor Agreement to permit it. He answered a number of questions from those present. There was an informal poll seeking the attitude of those present towards this apparent improvement in the procedure of redeeming bottles and cans, and the result was approval, with five abstentions, and no “no” votes.

Understandably, some residents who live immediately adjacent to the store have concerns about noise and loitering that might come with the change. They asked for more information about the process QFC will follow to allow the proposed change in the Good Neighborhood Agreement, and assurances that trucks using the Loading Dock directly in the lot – other than brief, occasional can/bottle pick-up – will remain prohibited in the agreement.

It was agreed that SMILE will host a second community meeting. A QFC representative will bring information about the steps involved in modifying the current zoning and/or agreements that prohibit truck access to the back lot. QFC’s plans for addressing additional security issues brought up in the question-and-answer period, and the overall condition of the store, will be discussed then. The meeting date and time will be announced.

There being no additional items on the agenda or presented from the floor, President Elaine O’Keefe adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

The secretary acknowledges with gratitude the assistance of Pat Hainley, Bob Burkholder, and Elaine O'Keefe in the preparation of these minutes.