

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2023

at SMILE Station in Sellwood

Main Website

www.SellwoodMoreland.org

Procedural

www.SMILerecords.org

OFFICERS PRESENT: David Dugan, President; Eric Norberg, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Friscia, Grant Huling, Elaine O’Keefe,

Tracy Fisher, Bob Burkholder; Ayomide Nikzi; MacKenzie Torres

GUESTS: Tom Hickey; “Bruce”

SMILE President David Dugan called the June Board Meeting of SMILE to order at 7:33 p.m., and began by asking for a review of the May 17 Board Meeting minutes – after which Elaine O’Keefe made a motion that the minutes be approved as submitted. Bob Burkholder seconded the motion; and the motion was approved unanimously.

Next, Tom Hickey – Chair of SMILE’s ad-hoc Housing Solutions Committee – arose to update the Board on the work of his committee. He said the general purpose of the committee is to identify, “what SMILE can do to assist the houseless in our neighborhood, while still representing the interests of all residents in the community”. The first step in this quest, he said, was to “educate ourselves”. The committee has done some data collection, and has investigated what local churches are doing. Moreland Presbyterian is by far the most active on this issue, and the committee is talking to them about possibly bringing in a weekly mobile “hygiene station” into the neighborhood, to provide showers and other hygiene services to the homeless in our community.

“Micro Villages” seem to be a real tool towards “recovery”, Hickey went on – as a nongovernmental intervention. “They can work, with community support,” he said. Committee members have toured some of them in the area, and have seen how they can benefit rather than hurt the community at large. In a photographic slide show he went into detail on what he found in the course of these visits. Most of them, so far, have been constructed on church properties. He remarked that he is left wondering if there is a way to bring a similar village of tiny houses to our community, and if so what would it look like? Where would it go? How would it help? Some thoughtful discussion followed his presentation, involving the members of the SMILE Board.

Presenting briefly next was Jim Friscia, Chair of the SMILE ad-hoc Events Committee, who spoke of the “summer events kick-off” coming up. He gave an overview of the July and August concerts, and pointed out that two or three volunteers are needed at all of them (except July 15) for setup, breakdown, and

staffing the SMILE Table there – and he circulated a sign-up sheet. He pointed out that the Selwood Moreland Business Alliance is presenting three “Fourth Friday” merchant promotional events, in cooperation with both Sellwood Community House and SMILE, which will also feature music...and they are helping promote the summer activities of all three organizations. The first SMILE summer concert is a week from Saturday in Sellwood.

With Treasurer Pat Hainley absent, David Dugan presented a monthly SMILE Financial Report. David, in addition to being SMILE President this year, is also the Chair of the SMILE Finance Committee. He reported that rentals of both the Oaks Pioneer Church and SMILE Station are in a positive trend, but we just experienced an unexpected expense in having to replace the vandalized air conditioner at the Oaks Pioneer Church. The replacement unit is better, anyway, and will be protected by a cage from further such vandalism. The renovation of the SMILE Station basement into an excellent meeting facility is proceeding well; we are seeking an extension of the city grant for an extra six months to utilize the funds.

President Dugan pointed out that there will be a Southeast Uplift virtual (ZOOM) workshop on the matter of the three Portland Voting District maps for our forthcoming new form of city government – the decision on the final adopted map is a month away, and two of the three put SMILE in the west-of-the-river district for Northeast and South Portland, and Downtown Portland. Some discussion followed; Elaine O’Keefe said she was strongly opposed “to moving SMILE into the downtown district,” and she hopes SMILE will take a stand on the issue. President Dugan said after the Uplift workshop Monday he will contact the Board about whether it wants to schedule a Special Board Meeting for that particular purpose.

New Board Member Grant Huling volunteered to be the Chair of our Crime Prevention Committee (informally recently called the “Community Safety” committee, pending any change in the ByLaws terminology for this standing committee). President Dugan then appointed him Chair of that committee.

There followed a brief discussion in which it was suggested that SMILE might consider encouraging better recognition of national holidays – particularly newer and less familiar ones of cultural significance.

With nothing further on the agenda or offered from the floor, Bob Burkholder moved the meeting be adjourned, and MacKenzie Torres seconded the motion, which, in the subsequent vote, passed unanimously at 9:12 p.m.