

# SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

# November 15, 2023

## at SMILE Station in Sellwood

# Main Website

**[www.SellwoodMoreland.org](http://www.SellwoodMoreland.org)**

## Procedural

[www.SMILerecords.org](http://www.SMILerecords.org)

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** David Dugan, President [*via ZOOM*]; Elizabeth Milner, Vice President; Eric Norberg, Secretary; Pat Hainley, Treasurer

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Grant Huling, Elaine O’Keefe, Bob Burkholder; Jim Friscia; Tracy Fisher

**GUEST:** Ed Nuneza, P. Gabriel, and Vikki DeGaa [via ZOOM]

SMILE President David Dugan, attending the meeting from Houston, Texas, via ZOOM, called the November Board Meeting of SMILE to order at 7:33 p.m., and began by asking for a review of the October 18th Board Meeting minutes – after which Pat Hainley made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Bob Burkholder seconded the motion; and the motion carried unanimously.

Grant Huling, representing the SMILE Transportation Committee he heads, related a conversation he had had with an official at PBOT, who explained the Portland Bureau of Transportation's funding is diminishing and shaky (due to 80% of its budget being use-restricted), and that reduces the commission's ability to function. PBOT is planning a 15% staff reduction. As a consequence, Grant and his committee have circulated a letter to the Board from the committee seeking its Board adoption and submission to the City Council. After a period of discussion of the letter (included in these minutes by reference), Eric Norberg made a motion that the Board accept and send the letter; Jim Friscia and Bob Burkholder simultaneously seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Dugan then told of his recent tour of the renovated and upgraded Willamette Center in Westmoreland at the corner of Milwaukie Avenue and Mitchell Street, and showed a brief video of what he saw there. He said it looks great. Several Board Members said they had been there recently too, and Eric Norberg who lives near it said that when it was open there were no homeless issues in that part of the neighborhood, and residents there have been looking forward to its reopening. Dugan advocated SMILE collaboration with the Willamette Center (a Multnomah-County-owned homeless center run by Transition Services), and the Board seemed quite amenable to doing so. There will be an official opening reception, open to the public, on November 30th, 4 to 6 p.m.; the Center will start accepting residents in mid-December, adding ten to twenty intakes per week until capacity is reached. Accepted are couples, partners, and single women. They must follow a number of rules to remain there, but there is no firm time limit by when residents must leave. They receive active assistance in finding housing and a job. Jim Friscia remarked that SMILE is cooperating with a “clean blankets” drive for the facility.

The temporary “Decemberville Committee” of SMILE was next to report; speaking for the committee was Elaine O’Keefe. On the date of SMBA’s neighborhood- wide business

association promotion in support of local merchants, SMILE Station will be open at 10 a.m. to prepare pancake breakfasts for passers-by, with Bob Burkholder as chef; Tracy Fisher is at work getting all the necessary supplies for the breakfast donated. Eric Norberg offered to show how to start and use the stove in SMILE Station, a procedure which is not obvious. Live music will start at 11:30 a.m., according to Jim Friscia, and hot cocoa will be offered throughout the day until closing at 4 p.m. There followed much discussion and planning of the details of that day at SMILE Station.

Dugan also reported that the annual SMILE Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place at 7 p.m. just north of Beeson Wellness on the Oaks Bottom Bluff, on Friday, November 24th, at 7 p.m. (the day after Thanksgiving).

President Dugan reminded the Board that December 6th is the date for our next General Meeting, and the election at the meeting to select a new Board Member to finish the term (until this coming May) of MacKenzie Torres, who resigned recently to move to Bend to take a new job there. Dugan said that he had checked, and Southeast Uplift does not need to be involved in this election. There followed a discussion of logistics. At the end, there was general agreement to simplify the process for this single-seat election to fill a five-month term – by holding public nominations and then voting at the same meeting.

Jim Friscia was next to speak, making a Communications Committee report. He debriefed Rachel when she departed her voluntary running of our newsletter and social media presence, and the two of them agreed on some needed requirements: It's essential to be "regular, comprehensive, and consistent" in communicating to the neighborhood we serve. (And the same applies to our internal communications, also.) He said, "Our needs have gone beyond what only volunteers can provide, and our budget should reflect that." He added that "we need ongoing I.T. expertise, and SMILE website design." He requested \$10,500 added to SMILE's 2023-24 budget for these purposes.

That led President Dugan into his planned budget discussion. Since we are already a month and a half into our new budget year, and nearing adoption of a formal budget, the first round of projections for Oaks Pioneer Church and SMILE Station capital projects and other potential expenses are upcoming. Any additional proposed expenses should be sent to David Dugan without delay. Elaine O'Keefe requested a priority be put on rebuilding SMILE's financial reserves.

Elizabeth Milner reminded the Board that the City of Portland deadline to reserve dates and venues for neighborhood special events in 2024 is coming up soon – on December second.

There being no other business on the agenda or offered from the floor, Pat Hainley moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Bob Burkholder second the motion – which went on to pass with evident unanimity at 9:07 p.m.