

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

December 20, 2023

at SMILE Station in Sellwood

Main Website

Procedural

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OFFICERS PRESENT: David Dugan, President; Pat Hainley, Treasurer;
Eric Norberg, Secretary

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

GUEST: David Schoellhamer

SMILE President David Dugan called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m., and began by asking for a review of the November 15th Board Meeting minutes – after which review Elaine O’Keefe made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. Bob Burkholder seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

First on the agenda was David Schoellhamer, Chair of the SMILE Land Use Committee, concerning two letters. First, the city committee seeking to temporarily suspend or abolish various requirements perceived as restraining the construction of new apartment housing in Portland currently, has voted to suspend – and in some circumstances to abolish – the requirements for developers to participate in “neighborhood contact” meetings concerning their projects. Our Land Use Committee has written a short and to-the-point letter to the Portland City Council attempting to mitigate that particular decision somewhat (no savings to developers have been determined from taking this particular step, thus they are unnecessary to restore incentives to developers, and the meetings are of great value to the community). The letter was distributed to the Board (and incorporated into these minutes by reference), for consideration of approval. Then, Elaine O’Keefe moved the Board accept the letter and forward it to the City Council, and Bob Burkholder seconded the motion – which was then approved unanimously by the Board.

Second, Schoellhamer shared a second letter (also incorporated into these minutes by reference), concerning the “Portland Land Division Code Update Project”. The planned letter to the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability recommends improvement of the city landslide map in the course of this update project. This informal letter does not require Board approval, but Schoellhamer wanted to make sure it was acceptable to the Board anyway, and it was, so he will send it. Elaine O’Keefe praised David and the diligent and scrupulous work of our Land Use Committee.

Next to speak was Grant Huling, a Board member, and Chair of both the Crime Prevention and Transportation Committees of SMILE. He wanted to discuss the raising of funds for vandalism abatement, using SMILE's 501c3 status as an

incentive to donors. Specifically he wants to raise a few hundred dollars to construct a concrete pad to anchor a trash receptacle at “Oaks Bottom Overlook” pocket park. He certainly can do that, but Pat Hainley remarked that it has become a real problem to correctly allocate donations coming in to SMILE electronically for various purposes; if they are not earmarked at the time of donation, they may not be correctly allocated.

Elaine O’Keefe said that in this case fundraising may not be necessary; we are still in the process of developing the 2024 SMILE budget, and a small amount like this should probably simply be put in the budget of the appropriate committee. “Too many ‘asks’ dilutes our ability to fundraise for our substantial needs.” Then, if funds come in to support the specific project, so much the better – they go to SMILE and can be added back into the budget. There followed a related discussion by Board Members on the topics raised.

President Dugan, returning to the agenda, asked for Board opinions on a previous suggestion made that it might be appropriate for the January Board Meeting to be an informal gathering with, perhaps, food or a potluck involved. The point was made that this nonetheless would be a public meeting, and we would probably have to feed all attendees. So perhaps have a social gathering for the Board to precede the formal public meeting, suggested Jim Friscia. Pat Hainley pointed out that it could appear to the community as if we were using SMILE funds to benefit the Board; it would be best if SMILE did not fund any food or refreshments involved in such an event – David said he would fund it.

Last on the agenda were two items from Jim Friscia, head of the SMILE Events Committee. First, he announced that we raised over \$1,000 in support of the lighting of the SMILE Tree on Oaks Bottom Bluff, and – adding in the amount allocated in the budget, we now have covered all the costs of the tree this year. But President Dugan added, “That \$1,000 offset the amount paid – \$2,500 – but we still have expenses to pay.”

The other item from Friscia concerned an idea of a winter concert of some sort sponsored by SMILE and to be held – perhaps on the weekend of February 17-18 – at Moreland Presbyterian Church. He has been talking with the church about it, and they like the idea; the acoustics for music there are excellent. A ticketed concert (\$10 per ticket) could be a fundraiser – perhaps for the Willamette Center residential shelter in Westmoreland. He said he wanted to get feedback from the Board about such a potential concert, which would need a \$500 budget. The Board Members present unofficially expressed interest in the idea. President Dugan proposed authorizing \$500 from the budget to proceed with these plans, and with no objections from any Board Member, the sum was thus allocated.

There being no other business on the agenda or raised from the floor, Pat Hainley moved that the meeting be adjourned; Bob Burkholder seconded the motion; and the motion carried with evident unanimity at 9:01 p.m.