

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2021

Via ZOOM videoconferencing

Main Website

www.SellwoodMoreland.org

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Procedural

www.SMILErecords.org

OFFICERS PRESENT: Simon Fulford, President; Ayomide Nikzi, Vice President; Pat Hainley, Treasurer; Eric Norberg, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Elaine O’Keefe, Jim Friscia, Bob Burkholder, Neal Spinler, Sarah Bunger, Zack Duffly, Emily Pitts

ALSO ATTENDING: R. Corless, “Bob”, Sally Moon, Anne Finch, Tom Hickey [who is President of the Bridgeton Neighborhood Assn., but is thinking of moving here]

Due to social distancing measures ordered by the State of Oregon to avoid spreading the COVID-19 coronavirus, this meeting was conducted online using the ZOOM application, with advance notice of the meeting having been made online – advising how any interested persons could join it by requesting the admission code; and, as noted above, a few did.

President Simon Fulford called the June SMILE Board Meeting to order at 7:34 p.m., and began the meeting by explaining the meeting protocols, announcing that the meeting was being recorded, and then reviewing the agenda. Then – noting the presence of a quorum – he invited a review of the minutes of the May 19 SMILE Board Meeting. After that review, Pat Hainley moved that the minutes be approved as presented; Bob Burkholder seconded the motion; and, after the vote, Simon announced the motion as having carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was a discussion of and report on the homicide on S.E. 19th at the Springwater Trail along Ochoco Street. R. Corless, Chair of the SMILE Crime Prevention Committee, reported that (according to witness accounts) someone had emerged from a tent and shot the victim without provocation as he walked along the trail. Central Precinct officers have interviewed some twenty witnesses, and a warrant has been issued. The victim “was known, and was harmless”. A memorial has been set up at S.E. Linn and 19th.

Emily Pitts suggested a memorial sign be posted for Gary O’Connor, who is the victim in this case; but Elaine O’Keefe advised waiting until there is more official information. Zack Duffly observed that “it is not necessary for SMILE to do anything at this point”. Pat Hainley asked that SMILE request that it receive the Portland Police final report on the case, when it is available. Jim Friscia said that it is not SMILE’s place to take action on this matter. Ayomide Nikzi suggested SMILE ask the city how we can assist in addressing the homeless issue in our neighborhood; to which Sarah Bunger added that we should craft the message carefully to avoid stigmatizing the homeless. Neal Spinler asked SMILE to invite a city spokesperson to update us on this issue – and also to seek an update from Transition Projects, operator of Multnomah County’s “Willamette Shelter” in Westmoreland. Elaine advised also having a “city presence” at any meeting at which Transition Projects appears. Tom Hickey, visiting our meeting from the Bridgeton neighborhood, said he wants to see a coalition of neighborhood associations addressing this issue.

Next on the agenda was a report from the SMILE Events Committee, presented by Jim Friscia. He announced that there will be a total of twelve live local concerts in the neighborhood this summer, four of them on Saturdays in July and held on the parking lot on the south side of the Windermere building at S.E. 16th and Bybee Boulevard; and eight concerts in August, split between the parking lot at Moreland Presbyterian Church in Westmoreland, and the Sellwood Community House in Sellwood. Although SMILE is the sponsor for these concerts, he expects donations from businesses and community members to help defray the cost of paying the local performers. He added that volunteers are needed for setup and breakdown before and after each concert; and he would like there to be a SMILE table at each concert, staffed by representatives of SMILE (Board Members?).

He concluded his report by confirming that the Neighborhood Cleanup is now set for the last Saturday in September (the 25th) in the parking lot at the south end of Westmoreland Park, and will be held in conjunction with Eastmoreland.

Our new Vice President, Ayomide Nikzi, was next to speak. Her nickname is Ayo, which she explained is pronounced “EYE-oh” – just the same as Jupiter’s volcanic moon, Io. She wanted to pursue a community outreach discussion, as an extension of Jim Friscia’s desire for a SMILE table at the twelve summer concerts. Specifically, how to share at these concerts what SMILE does, and can do. She asked how masking and social distancing rules will be applied to these concerts; President Simon Fulford shared his understanding of when these requirements change to advisory recommendations. Ayomide suggested that local businesses could contribute to promotional raffles at these concerts, and Jim said he would love to have a raffle at the concerts. That idea will be explored.

President Fulford reminded that SMILE needs one of our Board Members in the SMILE seat on the Sellwood Community House Board – and Sarah Bunger has volunteered for that. So Simon moved we approve her taking that role; Elaine O’Keefe seconded the motion; and the motion carried unanimously. Ayomide said she is interested in being the SMILE Board representative on the Southeast Uplift Board, which meets on the first Monday of each month – but she said she would need more information on what is involved with that before she would be able to commit to it.

The final agenda item consisted of a discussion on how and when SMILE might resume in-person meetings. President Fulford said he had talked with Paola at Southeast Uplift about that; we are still to adhere to any state protocols, but it appears reopening of in-person meetings is not far off. Fulford said he still wants to have ZOOM alternatives for these meetings, in order for SMILE to be fully accessible. Jim Friscia asked whether we should ZOOM or should stream live meetings? Streaming apparently is preferred by some. Having audible audio of what happens in our meetings is a problem, because of comment and question origination in various points of the room, and the acoustics of SMILE Station -- and solving that problem, for an easily-heard meeting by remote attendees, may require some investment. Elaine O’Keefe asked if Southeast Uplift can help us figure out a solution to that problem? Or perhaps Kevin Palmer could?

There being no other business on the agenda or offered by anyone on the Board, Pat Hainley moved the meeting be adjourned, and Eric Norberg seconded the motion, which then carried with evident unanimity at 8:58 p.m.