

## **SMILE General Meeting minutes**

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

Via ZOOM, online

Main Website

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

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Procedural

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Elaine O’Keefe, Neal Spinler, Zack Duffly, Jim Friscia

**SMILE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** R. Corless, Lisa Hamilton, Tom Hickey, Sym Colovos, Callie Forrest, Shannon Baird, Doug Rough (Sellwood Community House Treasurer), Elizabeth Luthy, Lance Goldberg, Randy Koch, Susan Wilch, Peter Link, James Cruz, Juliana James, Brenda Ray Scott, Sarah Fridovich, Brian Marsh, “lynnkbs”, Tyler Schwab, “Rosalie”, Anne Mersereau

President Simon Fulford called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. He began by reviewing, for those attending, the protocols for SMILE’s recorded ZOOM meetings, as well as presenting the evening’s agenda, and then reviewing the minutes of the September 1st General Meeting. With a quorum present, Simon asked for a motion to approve the minutes, and Pat Hainley made a motion for “approval as submitted”; Ayomide Nikzi seconded; and President Fulford then determined that the motion had passed “without opposition”.

First on the agenda was a report from the Sellwood Community House. Present to make the report was Doug Rough, Sellwood Community House Treasurer, who pointed out that since the community took over the then-closed Sellwood Community Center from Portland Parks and Recreation two years ago, it had grown to prosper as a new nonprofit organization, serving more of the community with programs and involvement than ever before.

Next to report was R. Corless, Chair of the SMILE Crime Prevention Committee, which she hopes to rename the “Community Safety Committee” when the committee’s name is changed in a planned update of the SMILE Bylaws, in which it’s specifically named. She said the suspect in the “Springwater Trail shooting” is under arrest and awaiting trial. She added that our section of the Springwater Trail is “cleaner than ever”. An aggressive homeless person has been invited to leave the south parking lot at Westmoreland Park. On October 24, 2:30-3:30 p.m., she said she plans a public chat session at SMILE Station.

Zack Duffly, Chair of the SMILE Transportation Committee, was next to speak, offering a “parking presentation”. He went over PBOT goals and priorities: Air quality, and reducing demand for cars, among them. Parking problems locally [caused by the proliferation of apartment houses with no on-site parking] have led to interest in a Parking Permit program here. He disclosed that there are 18 Parking Permit zones in the City of Portland (plus 5 Parking Meter zones). There is a formal process involving a local petition; a specific permit plan can be tailored to the area it applies to by stakeholders in the affected area, and if

residents want to pursue this process further, the Transportation Committee is willing to help. Duffly turned to PBOT's "Healthy Business" permits, allowing in-street dining; the current permits expire on Hallowe'en, but new permits can be obtained to extend in-street dining until next spring. He added that PBOT has found this program overwhelmingly popular with the public. Next, Duffly addressed abandoned vehicles: There are specific protocols involved in reporting vehicles for towing; details are posted on the PBOT website. R. Corless pointed out that there's a helpful overall City Resource number – 503/823-4000.

Then President Simon Fulford turned to the last agenda item – the major theme of the meeting – the SMILE Board's adoption of a motion, at its September 15 meeting, to establish a new ad-hoc "Homeless/Houseless Committee", the name of which has not yet been firmly established, and which now needs to be implemented. He invited thoughts and volunteers to serve on the new committee from among the attendees of tonight's meeting.

Tom Hickey spoke first: "Downtown" has a developed committee of this sort, which would like to see an end to on-street camping, with the city stepping up to address the relevant needs; this committee is "passionate and respectful, seeking solutions". Tom is working with "Shelter Now", a comprehensive solution suite. Shannon Baird was next, commenting that it should not be up to individuals to determine how to address the problem; it should be the city to investigate and provide triage, and to provide solutions in an organized manner.

Brenda Ray Scott, a Sellwood resident and former SMILE Board Member, spoke third: She said she had just completed two years working at Blanchett House, and suggested the value of training, if we are going to address this issue. She likes the coverage of this issue by the Oregonian and Willamette Week. She added that she wants to be part of this conversation.

SMILE Vice President Ayomide Nikzi remarked that she has been looking at other similar committees elsewhere, and also had discussed the matter with Southeast Uplife earlier today. Southeast Uplift spoke of "toolkits", and suggested speaking with people from "Street Roots", which she said she plans to do.

Juliana James, also a former SMILE Board Member, reported that she had had bad encounters on the Springwater Trail and Oaks Bottom Bluff Trail with "scary people" who acted in a menacing fashion, and who may be having mental issues.

James Cruz suggested the order of taking action should be "community safety first, then seeking to help these individuals." He added that he had been attacked himself. "We need new tactics," he said.

***[ A number of additional comments were made in "Chat" during this ZOOM-hosted meeting; a Chat transcript is incorporated into these minutes by reference. ]***

In concluding the conversation for the evening, President Fulford said he had made notes of those expressing interest in being part of this new committee – in which he, himself, intends to be involved – at least five people so far, and at least double that number being sought. He welcomed others expressing their interest to him, and then summarized the discussion.

Pat Hainley moved adjournment; Eric Norberg seconded; the motion carried at 8:59 p.m.