

# SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2021

Via ZOOM videoconferencing

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:** Sarah Bunger, Zack Duffly, Jim Fricia, Bob Burkholder, Elizabeth Milner

**ALSO ATTENDING:** R. Corless, Lance Goldenberg, Jason Deignan, Claire Wilkinson, David Schoellhamer, Ashley Asbjornson

*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.*

President Simon Fulford called the November SMILE Board Meeting to order at 7:35 p.m., and began by explaining the meeting protocols, and announcing that the meeting was being recorded. After noting the presence of a quorum, he invited the Board to review the minutes of the October 20th SMILE Board Meeting. Following that, Jim Friscia moved the minutes be approved as presented, and Pat Hainley seconded; the vote was unanimous.

The first item on the agenda was a report from the Sellwood Community House. Jason Diegnan recapped how the neighborhood’s operation of the Community House began, and SMILE’s role in it by granting a request for some of Helen Hiczun’s bequest, which was given to SMILE for safekeeping to benefit the continued operation of the “community center”. Ashley Asbjornson presented on how that grant subsequently benefitted the development of Sellwood Community House: It kept the facility open, and provided a one-year launch period, while allowing the start of needed major repairs. It also allowed the Community House to develop rental income and obtain external funding – and permitted continuation of children’s programs from the former PP&R operation of the Sellwood Community Center. “The magic flourishes with our exceptional staff,” she assured. SCH ended its last fiscal year with \$99,000 – \$125,000 over the projected budget – and SCH is now tracking to a balanced budget, funded by program services and rental income only. The SCH Board is now creating a strategic plan for the next three years – and, as part of that plan, the SCH Board asks that the Hiczun endowment be transferred to the SCH Board to manage. “The formal request will be made at a future SMILE Board Meeting.” There followed some Q-and-A on the details of the Community House’s operations. President Fulford congratulated the Sellwood Community House for all its successes, and then raised the question about what impact the transfer of the endowment would have on SCH’s relationship with PP&R, as long as Portland Parks and Recreation owns the building.

Leaving that thought to be considered by the SCH Board, Simon Fulford turned to Pat Hainley for the revised budget for his current SMILE fiscal year, after the revisions and

additions requested at the last Board Meeting. Pat noted that he had sent the revised budget to Simon, but that Simon had not forwarded it to the Board. Pat commented that the budget is conservative – it shows a deficit, but if any deficit actually occurs, SMILE can cover it from savings. Eric Norberg moved the new budget be approved by the Board, inasmuch as we are already using it in the new fiscal year. Elizabeth Milner seconded the motion, and the subsequent vote was announced by Simon as being unanimous in favor. Pat will still be open to any further amendments in the budget that the Board may request.

President Fulford then announced a policy discussion concerning the SMILE ad-hoc Communications Committee. The subsequent discussion focused on how SMILE is represented to the neighborhood, and how it represents the neighborhood to the city. Jim Friscia, a member of the committee, urged that personal opinions should not be communicated by anyone through assigned SMILE e-mail addresses.

Fulford then asked the Board to consider a supportive vote in favor of a proposed bylaws revision at Southeast Uplift. Our consent is not needed; it would merely be a vote of support. He explained the change contemplated would give Uplift more control of their Board membership: Southeast Uplift would be able to have its Board (which is composed of representatives from each of the neighborhoods it supports) consider a motion to expel a Board member, if that member's disruptive conduct impairs the functioning of the Southeast Uplift Board. (But the neighborhood representative thus ejected could be replaced by another one chosen by the neighborhood affected.) Two members of the SMILE Board with experience as Uplift Board Members on behalf of SMILE affirmed that this change was badly needed to keep Uplift functional, and Eric Norberg pointed out that there is a similar provision in the SMILE bylaws, although it has never been necessary to invoke it. Simon Fulford moved that SMILE endorse the bylaws change at Southeast Uplift; Jim Friscia and others seconded simultaneously; and the motion carried unanimously.

The discussion turned to the long-planned "SMILE Board Retreat" on Sunday, December 12, at SMILE Station, at 10 a.m. Ayomide said she is still trying to determine if Southeast Uplift can provide someone to moderate the retreat. SMILE would like to borrow flip-chart materials from Sellwood Community House for use at the four-hour retreat.

Pat Hainley told the Board that our Community Christmas Tree lights will be installed on November 20th on the tree overlooking Oaks Bottom on S.E. 13th, between Beeson Chiropractic (which supplies the electric power at no charge), and Wilhelm's Portland Memorial. But, he said, those lights will not be lit until Monday, November 29, in a ceremony which will include the singing of carols – starting at 6:30 p.m.

R. Corless reported that a recent incident, in which ten shots were fired from the Springwater Trail near Sellwood at 1:25 a.m. in the morning, "has traumatized the neighborhood". One bullet hit a Sellwood home, although no injuries were reported; and bullet casings were found by the police near S.E. 21st and Marion Street. She and the neighbors "want an investigation". She said our NRT Officer (Officer Green) may be able to appear at the December SMILE General Meeting on December first.

There being no further business, Pat Hainley moved adjournment, Eric Norberg seconded, and then President Fulford announced the meeting as adjourned, at 8:51 p.m.