

SMILE General Meeting minutes

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

Via ZOOM, online

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, Bob Burkholder, Sarah Bunger, Jim Friscia

SMILE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: R. Corless, Lance Goldenberg, Xander Harris, David Schoellhamer, Karen Mahan, Juliana James, Michael Kennedy

VISITORS FROM ELSEWHERE: Trang Sharbaugh, Trang Ho

President Simon Fulford called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. He began by reviewing, for those attending, the protocols for SMILE’s recorded ZOOM meetings – and then presented the evening’s agenda, and then reviewed the minutes of the October 6th SMILE General Meeting. Without a quorum present, no motion could be entertained for approving the minutes, so they will be held over until the next General Meeting.

First on the agenda was a report from the SMILE Events Committee, presented by Jim Friscia. Some of the committee’s budget is currently dedicated to help support Friday night fall events and dances at Sellwood Community House. The committee will meet soon to consider the SMILE-sponsored events that will be supported for next year, he said.

David Schoellhamer reported next for the SMILE Land Use Committee. He observed that issues for the committee have been increasing lately. He thanked those who had advocated some time ago for the “Main Street” design guidelines to the Portland City Council. Commissioner Mapps supported some of the ideas submitted by SMILE in the final version of the new city design guidelines, he said.

David went on to tell of some upcoming meetings for his committee: On December 1, the committee will hear from those behind a planned major new development on both sides of the bridgehead at the Sellwood Bridge, which would include 104 residential units and 10,000 square feet of commercial space; then, on December 8, the committee will host the neighborhood contact meeting for the builders planning a new development on the northwest corner of S.E. 13th and Tenino, diagonally across the street from SMILE Station. They are proposing two separate buildings of 19 residential units apiece on the lot, which may be split. (He explained that state law requires including “affordable housing” when 20 or more residential units are in a building, so there are a lot of apartment buildings being built now with 19 units.) Each building will also have some ground level commercial space. SMILE can make suggestions for both these developments, but as long as they meet city code for the site, we have no power to require anything, or to object to the plans.

David went on to say that a third meeting is planned, on a date not yet determined, for a proposed zoning change on the west side of Milwaukie Avenue at S.E. Harold Street, on the edge of the Oaks Bottom bluff – so in this case we actually can have a role. The zoning change would permit construction of a tall building on several parcels at that location. The requested zoning would allow a building not to exceed ten stories – although typically such buildings tend to run four to seven stories in height, he said. Some Q and A discussion of land use matters concluded his report.

Bob Burkholder reported for the SMILE Emergency Preparedness Committee: A citywide annual emergency drill is coming up this Sunday, 1-4 p.m., simulating a major earthquake, and several other types of disaster. It will include a test of the emergency use of ZOOM. Our local group will focus on radio communications and damage assessment. Bob added that he is pleased with the group that has come together to serve the local area.

Elaine O’Keefe reported that the Chair of our Communications Committee, Neal Spinler, has bought a house in the Portsmouth neighborhood and has moved there, and so he has resigned his Board seat at SMILE. Consequently, we again need a new Webmaster, and a new Communications Committee Chair. She is filling in on those roles temporarily. SMILE is also seeking a part-time paid Assistant Manager; details of the job are posted on our website – www.SellwoodMoreland.org.

President Fulford reported on behalf of our new “Homeless/Houseless” committee, the name for which has not yet been finalized. He said the committee plans to meet twice a month for the time being, and is looking for more community members. It will confront such questions as how we can best engage with our homeless/houseless neighbors, how we should deal with related community issues, “how and what should we ‘liaise’ with existing city strategies”, and how do we live and work with our homeless/houseless community?

The meeting ended with an opportunity to hear from attendees in an open forum. Karen Mehan was first to speak, complaining about noise from Sellwood Community House (which is across the street from her house), which she insisted is causing her medical issues. President Fulford responded by pointing out that this is an issue we were aware of, and that the Community House and SMILE Board Members have tried to mediate the issue with her, without success so far. He confirmed that SMILE hopes that a solution, satisfactory to her, can be found. So far, no other neighbors near her – as best we have been able to determine – seem to share her opposition to such uses at Sellwood Community House, which has been in active use as a public community resource for over a hundred years at that location. We understand that some efforts have already been made to lower electronic sound amplification at the Community House.

There being no other contributions for the open forum, Simon Fulford offered a brief update from Southeast Uplift, to which our Board representative is Ayomide Nikzi. He reported that there is a new Director at Uplift – Nanci Chapin, a former SMILE Board Member. Simon then offered a chance to the two visitors from Foster-Powell, Trang Sharbaugh and Trang Ho, to promote their new online business – www.masafresh.com.

He then announced the SMILE General Meeting for November as adjourned, at 8:49 p.m.