SMILE General Meeting minutes

Wednesday, December 1, 2021
Via ZOOM, online

Main Website		Procedural
www.SellwoodMoreland.org	<<>>	**www.SMILErecords.org**

OFFICERS PRESENT: Simon Fulford, President; Ayomide Nikzi, Vice President; Eric Norberg, Secretary
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Elaine O'Keefe, Bob Burkholder, Sarah Bunger, Jim Friscia
SMILE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: R. Corless, Darlene Kelly, Susan Wilch, Ruth and Steve Kaser, Bonnie Palzer, Xander Harris, Alyce Irving, Elizabeth Luthy
VISITORS FROM ELSEWHERE: NRT Officer William Green

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 – and then presented the evening's agenda, followed by a reviewed the minutes of the November 3rd SMILE General Meeting. Without a quorum present in this meeting, no motion could be entertained for approving the unapproved minutes from the past three months of General Meetings, so they will be held over until the next General Meeting.

First on the agenda was an appearance, via ZOOM, of NRT Officer William Green. ("NRT" stands for Neighborhood Response Team; he is assigned to Central Precinct.) He introduced himself as a Southeast Portland native, and a Franklin High graduate. He went on to get degrees in college, and has been an officer in the Portland Police Bureau since 2011. He is currently recovering from a cut hand in an incident on the previous weekend. He detailed the livability issues that NRT Officers concentrate on. In recent events, he reported that a suspect with a felony robbery warrant – Freddie Vasquez – had been menacing kids at St. Agatha in the previous week, but now is in custody. He himself has been working nuisance complaints at Oaks Bottom, and in Sellwood and Westmoreland Parks. He helped mitigate problems at a "squatter house" with a water leak off Martins Street in Eastmoreland. Officer Green explained that NRT officers respond based on contact with community members and their own investigations; they are not "dispatched", as are other officers, to incidents. NRT officers can "abate" homeless camps, but usually only in response to specific crimes, under current city rules; overdoses, property crimes, and stolen cars are the top issues he hears about from residents of the Sellwood-Westmoreland neighborhood. There followed a questions and answer period after his presentation.

The scheduled update on the Sellwood Sewer Project from BES, shown on the agenda, was unavailable tonight – the speaker on the subject is sick, and will reschedule.

President Fulford brought up our new ad-hoc "Homelessness/Houselessness Committee", which is meeting every two weeks at present. "Housing Solutions Committee" may wind up being its official name. He then discussed the sort of issues the committee seeks to address. The committee is in an exploratory and fact-finding mode currently. The committee's next meeting is tomorrow.

There followed some discussion on whether to have the General Meeting in January on the fifth, or cancel it due to the Holidays. There was some sentiment to cancel it, but no decision was made. Tonight's meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. by President Simon Fulford.