

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2022

Via ZOOM videoconferencing

Main Website

www.SellwoodMoreland.org

Procedural

www.SMILErecords.org

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Bunger, Elaine O’Keefe, Jim Friscia, Bob Burkholder, Emily Pitts, Elizabeth Milner

ALSO ATTENDING: Vikki DeGaa, David Schoellhamer, Miriam Erb

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 – including information on how any interested persons could join the meeting by requesting the admission code.

President Simon Fulford called the January SMILE Board Meeting to order at 7:36 p.m., and began by going over the meeting protocols, and announcing that the meeting was being recorded. After observing the presence of a quorum, he invited the Board to review the minutes of the December 15th SMILE Board Meeting. After the review, Sarah Bunger moved the minutes be approved as presented, and Jim Friscia seconded; the vote to approve was unanimous.

The first item on the agenda was presented by the Chair of the SMILE Land Use Committee, David Schoellhamer. David pointed out that his committee is the only one at SMILE with a self-imposed requirement that all members of the committee must be confirmed by the SMILE Board; he wanted to add a member to the committee and requested SMILE’s approval for the action. President Fulford made a motion that the addition be made and Elizabeth Milner seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Schoellhamer then turned his attention to a rezoning request in Westmoreland, in the two-block section on the west side of Milwaukie Avenue, overlooking the Oaks Bottom Bluff, between Insley and Ellis Streets. Sections of this parcel have different zoning designations, as does the current parking lot on the southwest corner of Ellis and Milwaukie – once the location of Midway School, but for decades a parking lot for the property across the street. Only the northernmost section of the property west of Milwaukie Avenue is currently zoned RM-4, and the owner wants all of it to have the same designation – zoning which permits buildings up to ten stories in height, but which in practice results in buildings four to seven stories high.

At this time, no project application is associated with the rezoning request; the rezoning request stands alone at present. Schoellhamer explained, “We do not

know what the owner is contemplating. We believe the owner is contemplating selling to a development company that would then redevelop the land.”

SMILE's testimony is due February 16 at 2:30 p.m. – the time of the public hearing, and hours before the next scheduled Board meeting – so President Simon Fulford suggested the Land Use Committee e-mail the proposed Board testimony to the Board as soon as possible, with Board Members empowered to vote on approval of the testimony by e-mail, to meet the deadline. The Land Use Committee's neighborhood meeting on this request is to be January 20, after which the testimony is to be developed. Q and A on zoning details followed.

Next, President Fulford said he wanted to follow up on the SMILE “strategic plan” developed in the Board's December Retreat, with the assistance of Southeast Uplift. Elaine and Ayomide have already submitted comments. He screen-shared the summary document from Southeast Uplift, with additional Board comments added in red, for discussion. He asked that parts of the original document be read aloud by Board Members at this point.

Sarah and Elizabeth asked for a little more time to absorb and think about this document. Some Board Members asked about the purpose of the document, and how we plan to use it. Jim Friscia commented that it was a good start on a “guiding document”. More discussion followed on these points. That it was to be “a statement of neighborhood values” was suggested. Simon said he would like “a pretty solid document” to give Board candidates in time for the May SMILE election. Simon will announce pairs of “Board Accountability Buddies” to go over sections of the report, and then send their comments back to him.

Finally, President Fulford announced that Emily Pitts wants SMILE to consider how it can support local merchants who have been victims of considerable wanton vandalism recently. Eric reminded that at one time the Crime Prevention Committee, when led by John Fyre, used to do random nighttime patrol walks around parts of the neighborhood, in the hope that the presence of a witness might discourage such criminal acts. Eric added, “Almost any other SMILE response would just be sympathy.” Ayomide, a business person in Sellwood herself, said she would like to see a mutual discussion by business owners – something that SMILE might be able to facilitate at SMILE Station. Pat Hainley suggested a meeting in which business owners bring ***their*** ideas to ***us***.

There being nothing else on the agenda or offered from the floor, President Fulford announced the meeting as being adjourned at 9:12 p.m.