

SMILE General Meeting minutes

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Via ZOOM, online

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: Elaine O'Keefe, Bob Burkholder, Jim Friscia, Emily Muro-Pitts

SMILE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: R. Corless, Tom Hickey, Ann Howell, Susan Wilch, Lance Goldenberg, James Mason, James Cruz, Mike Kennedy, Leonora Perron, Juliana James, Alyce Irving, Janis Hainley

VISITORS FROM ELSEWHERE: Tracie Heidt, JLA Public Involvement, BES; Tina Wilson, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES)

President Simon Fulford called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. He began by reviewing, for those attending, the protocols for SMILE's recorded ZOOM meetings, and announced that the meeting was being recorded – and then presented the evening's agenda. Without a quorum present yet, no motion could be entertained for approving the unapproved minutes of the past four months of General Meetings, until a quorum would be attained; he promised that if a quorum was established, he would call for a review of all four sets of minutes at that point.

First to appear, representing the SMILE Events Committee, was Jim Friscia. The committee is starting to plan 2022 events, and he reported that Portland Parks and Recreation evidently does plans a "Summer Free For All" schedule of concerts and Movies in the Park – but, this year, only one such event would take place in Sellwood Park, and it would require a \$1,000 payment from the neighborhood to bring it about. (This could be recouped by merchant sponsors and individuals' donations.) The event would be either a concert or a movie – our choice – on July 29 (but the date might be changeable if requested). Other SMILE events of the year are being discussed, but no decisions have yet been made on any. Interest was expressed in a return of the SMILE Neighborhood Cleanup in May, and the SMILE Easter Egg Hunt in April; both take place at Westmoreland Park. The Events Committee meetings are not held on a set schedule yet. Ayomide Nikzi said she would like to participate in it.

At 7:50 p.m. attendees pointed out that a quorum had just been attained with the arrival of the latest General Meeting attendees, so Simon Fulford paused the meeting to ask that attendees review and be ready to approve, or to request amendments in, the SMILE General Meeting minutes from October, November, December, and January. (They had all been distributed to the General Meeting e-mail list, and all had been posted for a month or more on the SMILE procedural website, www.SMILErecords.org.) Elaine O'Keefe moved that all four sets of minutes be approved as presented, Ayomide Nikzi seconded the motion, and – after the subsequent vote – President Fulford announced that the motion had carried unanimously.

Returning to the agenda, President Fulford introduced Tracie Heidt and Tina Wilson, representing the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, who were present to make an update on the "Sellwood Sewer Extension Project". 54 locations have been identified at which

to extend the existing sewer system in Sellwood and Westmoreland, affecting 123 property owners. There are quite a few nonconforming sewers (including cases in which two properties share the same sewer line), they said, and even a few septic tanks still in service. Considerable Q-and-A followed, much of it focused on the cost to property owners of the upgrade; it would cost approximately \$7,000 to property owners for the city to connect a new sewer line to the sewer and bring it to the edge of their property; the homeowner would then have to contract with a private service, at additional cost, to connect the house sewer drain line with the sewer line newly installed at the edge of the property. Tracie Heidt can be reached at 503/865-6492, or via e-mail: tracie@jla.us.com. Tina Wilson can be reached via e-mail at: seweronx@portlandoregon.gov

The final item on the agenda was an update and presentation from SMILE's new ad-hoc "Housing Solutions Committee" by Simon Fulford. He explained the origins of the committee: An effort by SMILE to find an approach to the problems caused by, and also facing, the homeless in our neighborhood – an approach that does not condone illegal camping, but does not condemn those forced to camp illegally. "SMILE cannot change the situation," he said, "But we can try to alleviate the problems locally, while advocating for citywide change." Draft objectives have tentatively been outlined by the committee, for consideration and conversation (reproduced elsewhere, and incorporated into these minutes by reference) -- of which Fulford read a slightly-revised version modified to reflect early public comments received. He reminded those present that "SMILE is not a direct service provider." There followed a number of comments in favor of SMILE working through established nonprofit service organizations.

More comments followed on the problems and situations posed by various homeless individuals currently informally residing in the neighborhood. James Cruz said he is in favor of unilaterally clearing illegal encampments, rather than providing services to campers. Ayomide Nikzi remarked that she favors a position of trying to encourage some form of humane support. Emily Pitts commented that she is sympathetic to both these positions. Juliana James said he feels Oregon is ranked low in available medical services; and she has personally been intimidated by experiences in the neighborhood arising from camps and campers. She wants homeless encampments removed from the Oaks Bottom Wildlife Area, and she hopes for a cleanup of the neighborhood – adding, "But 'Housing First' is an excellent program."

Simon Fulford thanked everyone who attended tonight's meeting for their contributions to the discussion, and invited everyone to attend the twice-monthly meetings of this new committee.

A brief discussion ensued on a different subject – the recent vandalism spree that broke a large number of business' windows in Sellwood and Westmoreland. A comment was made that perhaps today's developers should be encouraged "to put less glass in their designs." Ayomide Nikzi observed, however, that one can install "shatterproof windows".

With nothing else remaining on the agenda, and nothing further offered from the floor, Pat Hainley moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Ayomide Nikzi seconded the motion – which then evidently carried without objection, ending the meeting at 9:02 p.m.