

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

February 16, 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: Christine Timberlake, Grace Radke, Jason Diegnan, Ashley Asbjornsen, R. Corless

Due to social distancing measures required 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 February 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 January 19th SMILE Board Meeting. After the review, Pat Hainley moved that the minutes be approved as submitted, and Emily Pitts seconded; the vote to approve was unanimous.

The first item on the agenda dealt with the testimony prepared for the approval of the Board by the Land Use Committee since the last Board Meeting; since this testimony, regarding upzoning a large commercial property on the west side of Milwaukie Avenue between Insley and Ellis Streets in Westmoreland, was had to be submitted before tonight’s Board Meeting would take place, it was circulated by the committee’s Chair, David Schoellhamer, by e-mail to all Board Members. All specifically approved it, and it was submitted on time. The testimony, incorporated into these minutes by reference, opposed the requested upzoning for several enumerated and documented reasons.

The second item on the agenda was another request from the Sellwood Community House to have the entire remaining Helen Hiczun bequest to SMILE, to benefit what was then called the Sellwood Community Center (then operated by Portland Parks and Recreation), transferred to them. First to appear was Jason Diegnan, followed by the facility’s Executive Director, Ashley Asbjornsen. Diegnan recounted his version of the bequest – that it had been made to an ad hoc SMILE Friends of the Sellwood Community Center Committee, no longer in existence; Eric Norberg pointed out that the bequest was to SMILE, to keep in trust for the benefit of the Center. There followed a discussion of the potential uses for these funds at this time; Elaine O’Keefe urged that a “reserve fund” should be established at Sellwood Community House into which at least some of these funds would go. President Simon Fulford commended Sellwood Community House leadership for the success that the facility has become. Diegnan offered the thought that having that bequest money added to their balance sheet could help reassure potential grant-making organizations that the Community House is financially sound, and that

any grants would be well-used. Elaine O’Keefe moved that the remaining bequest money (estimated at \$650,000) be transferred in its entirety to Sellwood Community House. Sarah Bunger seconded the motion. The motion carried, with one abstention.

Next on the agenda was a “SMILE operations update” by the Manager of the Oaks Pioneer Church and of SMILE Station, Christina Timberlake, and her recently-hired assistant, Grace Radke. Christine started with a PowerPoint presentation detailing the successful increases in revenue for church rentals, and a potentially-significant rise in income for SMILE Station rentals in the last month or so. She also reported that a persistent problem has been resolved – there has been no homeless camping overnight at SMILE Station since before Christmas; but there has been some graffiti at Oaks Pioneer Church. Revenue from church rentals has doubled over the past five years. “We have increased our pricing, but our bookings have increased, too.”

But there are problems that need to be addressed: The stained glass and other windows badly need cleaning, as do the chandeliers. The church building badly needs repainting, and some dry rot there must be repaired. At SMILE Station, years of occasional basement flooding (now completely prevented) have left black mold in places; we need mold inspection and remediation. The heater in the basement does not work, which not only is a problem for operating the manager’s office there, but for preventing any further dampness and mold from condensation. Christine said she believes we must replace the Station’s windows with energy-efficient options – windows that would open, to improve ventilation. (Elaine O’Keefe said that, as an historic building, it would be a shame to replace wooden window frames with metal or composite ones; Christine said she was sympathetic to that point, and wooden replacements might be the ultimate choice.) SMILE Station needs a computer, software, a cellular phone, and a marketing budget.

Then she told of the ongoing support of Nancy Walsh, who still turns up at these two facilities to garden, do work inside, and to pay out of her own pocket for repairs (just had the church roof professionally cleaned) – Chris puts a priority on recognizing Nancy for her decades of spirit and generosity to SMILE, and its activities and facilities. She would like to install new benches at SMILE Station to replace old ones, and – in an event – dedicate the benches to Nancy. Much supportive discussion on all these points followed.

President Fulford asked which four of the needed repair projects would be at the top of her list, since those should be addressed first – SMILE cannot authorize the whole list at once, due to the cost. Christine listed her four top priorities: (1) Repainting and repairing dry rot at Oaks Pioneer Church; (2) Heating the basement of SMILE Station; (3) Mold inspection and remediation at SMILE Station; and (4) Recognition of Nancy Walsh for her spirit and generosity to SMILE. Simon asked the permission of the Board to authorize proceeding immediately with those four projects. There were no objections from the Board, so they are authorized.

The last item of the evening concerned having an authorized Board representative from SMILE at the monthly Southeast Uplift Board Meetings for the next three months: March 7, April 4, and May 2 (first Monday of each month.) Ayomide Nikzi had been attending, but finds she cannot continue doing that; Elaine O’Keefe said she would do it, but no more than just those three meetings, since she expects to leave the Board after the May SMILE election.

There being no other business, President Fulford adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.