

SMILE General Meeting minutes

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Via ZOOM, online

Main Website

www.SellwoodMoreland.org <<>>

Procedural

www.SMILErecords.org

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

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

SMILE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Clare Wilkinson, Wilson Hack, Karen
Mahan, Amrita Vatsal, Tina Nunez-Osterink, MacKenzie Torres, Colin B.,
Marianne Nelson, "scotton", "wmokrzycki"

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 virtual ZOOM meetings, and announced that the meeting was being recorded – and then presented the evening's agenda. Without a quorum present, no motion could be entertained for approving the minutes of the February 2nd General Meeting; they will be carried over for approval to the April General Meeting.

First to appear was Amrita Vatsal, who presented a report from the "Friends of Moreland Woods", previously identified by the SNAC committee as being a subcommittee of SNAC. She reported that the group has raised over \$7,000 in donations, and some of that money has been spent on buying some 200+ signs to promote their fund-raising efforts. The group is still working to preserve the currently-undeveloped private property at the north end of Wilhelm's Portland Memorial as a public park. Vatsal showed "Phase 1" and "Phase 2" landscape drawings of concepts for the layout of such a public park; the drawings are incorporated into these minutes by reference. She said that Portland Memorial has requested that no more signs about Moreland Woods be posted on that property at this time. Its owners, Foundation Partners, have asked for a formal conditional agreement on the potential sale of the property for use as a park; the last figure discussed for its purchase was around a million dollars. Elaine O'Keefe asked what would be the name under which such an offer would be made? "Your own 501c3, or under SMILE's name?" She added that doing it under SMILE's name "would give me great pause". She urged that the nonprofit entity designated to make that offer be established and arranged in advance.

There followed a SNAC committee update by its Co-Chair, Tina Nunez-Osterink. She outlined the green spaces that SNAC is responsible for – adding that the one currently receiving the most attention is "Springwater Meadows", at the south end of Sellwood along the Springwater Trail. It is now five years old. She showed a calendar of events for the rest of the year for the SNAC committee, which is incorporated into these minutes by reference. Jim Friscia said he would like to see these planned events posted on the SMILE website.

Simon Fulford – speaking for R. Corless, Chair of the SMILE Crime Prevention Committee, who could not be present tonight – announced that the committee has arranged a "Neighbors Together" training by the Portland Office of Community and Civic Life, which is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30, via ZOOM. Neighbors Together is the new name for what used to be "Neighborhood Watch". The Office of Community and Civic Life is the new name for what used to be the Office of Neighborhood Involvement.

President Fulford followed that with a report from the new ad-hoc SMILE Housing Solutions Committee, which he said is continuing to meet every two weeks, and frequently has a guest presenter. Among those guest speakers has been Alan Evans of “Helping Hands”, operator of the Bybee Lakes (Wapato) shelter site. The committee’s next meeting is March 10, at which guests from “Shelter Now” are to present.

Simon then updated those present on the current status of the SMILE Board’s effort to formulate its “values and beliefs”; a progress report on the subject will appear in the March issue of THE BEE – in the Letters column, and also in the SMILE newsletter section.

Jim Friscia, speaking for the ad-hoc SMILE Events Committee, announced that SMILE will receive only one summer concert this year as part of 2022’s Portland Parks “Summer Free For All” program – the concert will be in Sellwood Park on Friday, July 29 – but the committee also plans some additional, purely-local music events of the sort presented last fall, as well. He also announced that there WILL be an Easter Egg Hunt again this year, arranged by Sellwood Community House in cooperation with the Oaks Bottom Lions Club and Moreland Presbyterian Church; but, unlike previous years, it will not be in Westmoreland Park. The chosen location is at Llewellyn Elementary School on the Saturday morning before Easter Sunday. A permit has been applied for. There was a cautionary comment from a meeting attendee that the Llewellyn School playground is going to have to be cleaned up of dog droppings and discarded cans and bottles, in order to be safe and clean for the kids looking for the eggs.

Elaine O’Keefe advised that Sellwood’s Ukrainian Orthodox Church is trying to raise funds for Ukraine support, during the current invasion by Russia; more information, and a financial contribution opportunity, appear on the church’s website.

There being no other business on the agenda or offered by anyone in attendance, President Simon Fulford declared the meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.