

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2022

In person at SMILE Station

Main Website

www.SellwoodMoreland.org

Procedural

www.SMILErecords.org

OFFICERS PRESENT: Elaine O’Keefe, President; Elizabeth Milner, Vice President; Eric Norberg, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Bunger, Jim Friscia, MacKenzie Torres, Bob Burkholder, David Dugan, Dave Weber

ALSO ATTENDING: Greg Bourget

SMILE President Elaine O’Keefe called to order the July Board Meeting of SMILE at 7:37 p.m. The first order of business was a review of the minutes of the June Board Meeting on June 15th; after the review, Elizabeth Milner moved that the minutes be accepted as presented; Sarah Bunger seconded the motion; and the motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was “SMILE news and updates”. Eric Norberg revealed that plans were underway to move our large archive of past SMILE General and Board Meeting written minutes, stored in binders on shelves in SMILE Station’s basement, to the City of Portland Archives, which has expressed enthusiasm for receiving and keeping our written minutes permanently (they will remain accessible to us as needed). We will keep the minutes of the entire previous SMILE year, from May to May, on-site for quick reference, as well as the accumulation of monthly minutes of the current SMILE year. When the current year’s minutes are complete, the previous set of complete minutes will be transferred to the City Archives, and the just-completed year will be kept for another twelve as the new current year’s minutes accumulate in SMILE Station until the next May, when the process will again update. This new policy will afford much more room in our basement for other purposes, while protecting our past minutes from the deterioration that can occur with ongoing basement storage on-site.

Next, Jim Friscia reported on the SMILE Summer Concerts so far – they are occurring on Saturday evenings in July and August, using a location at S.E. 13th and Bidwell in Sellwood (involving a street closure) in July, moving to the Windermere Real Estate parking lot at S.E. 16th and Rural Street, a block south of Bybee Boulevard in Westmoreland, for the August concerts. In a word, Jim said, the concerts are doing “well”. He added that the planning for “the Summerville stuff is going okay”. He said that the weather forecast for the Summerville weekend, July 29-31, is “pretty hot”, and he expressed the hope that it won’t be too hot for good attendance. \$5,500 has been raised in sponsorships for it; the total costs will be \$11,000, and sponsorships are covering half of it, and SMILE will cover the rest. The weekly summer concerts are drawing over 200 attendees for each one, observed President O’Keefe, and have been good.

Elizabeth Milner, who is involved in the planning, along with Sellwood Community House, of the revival of “Sundae in the Park” on July 31st, reported that the event is “looking good” – but that we still need more volunteers to help with it. Nancy Walsh is

sharing her expertise in running the event. She added that, “someone with a truck is needed to help set up and break down Sundae in the Park”; President O’Keefe commented that, “we all need to be responsive to requests for help, and we need to encourage friends and family to help as well.”

President O’Keefe next introduced Greg Bourget, Director of “Cascadia Action” – which is concerned with “climate action”. He wants SMILE to sign a series of letters on subjects of concern, including cleaner air, for his organizations; Eric and Elaine pointed out that since SMILE has a binding court-ordered settlement with the Union Pacific Railroad – which includes elements involving cleaner air, the terms of which we cannot disclose under a court-ordered imperative of confidentiality – we cannot sign any letter directed to the Union Pacific Railroad, as potentially putting us in breach of elements of that court-ordered settlement. Such a breach could have dire consequences for SMILE. Bourget said he was aware of that.

Mr. Bourget remarked that he works with three nonprofits – “Cascadia Action”, “Oregon Clean Air”, and one other – all three of which have the same Board of Directors. He asserted that Portland had “terrible air” several years ago, and says he is working with 56 neighborhood associations, and various other organizations. He asked for a new liaison person from SMILE; Elizabeth Milner and David Dugan both expressed interest, which apparently was taken as a firm commitment by each of them by Mr. Bourget. He went on to discuss issues in Linnton, in Northwest Portland, and his groups’ efforts to pressure organizations and businesses perceived as polluters.

In the extensive discussion that followed, and Bourget reminded that the Board that SMILE President Simon Fulford had already signed some of the letters requested of SMILE previously; but the latest set of letters are somewhat different, and he wants us to sign them again. President O’Keefe said she would re-circulate the new letters to the Board for further discussion.

Elaine O’Keefe proceeded with her report on the plans to repair and upgrade SMILE Station with the help of a substantial City of Portland grant. She said she had been talking with the Energy Trust of Oregon, and there is the possibility of adding Solar Power to SMILE Station. We have also had an evaluation of our lighting at both SMILE Station and the Oaks Pioneer Church. We must have an Architectural Plan; she has signed a contract with Coop Architecture for that. The city seems willing to give us the entire \$250K grant in advance, to avoid our having cash flow problems in the renovation of SMILE Station. The city contract associated with the grant is for one year, but possibly can be extend if needed.

President O’Keefe, who is also on the SMILE Finance Committee, next reported that the committee met the previous day, and had developed a “Budget Reserves Policy”. This was submitted to the Board, and is incorporated into these minutes by reference. Eric Norberg made a motion that this policy be adopted by the SMILE Board; David Dugan seconded the motion; and the motion carried unanimously.

There followed a brief discussion about our updated budgeting process, with the deadline for committee budget requests being the end of July. Then President Elaine O’Keefe announced that the meeting as being adjourned, at 9:05 p.m.