

# SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2022

In person at SMILE Station

Main Website

[www.SellwoodMoreland.org](http://www.SellwoodMoreland.org)

Procedural

<<>> [www.SMILErecords.org](http://www.SMILErecords.org)

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Elaine O’Keefe, President; Pat Hainley, Treasurer;  
Eric Norberg, Secretary

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Emily Pitts, Jim Friscia, Bob Burkholder,  
David Dugan, Dave Weber, Zack Duffly

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Chris Timberlake

SMILE President Elaine O’Keefe called to order the September Board Meeting of SMILE at 7:35 p.m. The first order of business was a review of the minutes of the August 17th Board Meeting; after the review, Pat Hainley moved that the minutes be accepted as presented, Bob Burkholder seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

President O’Keefe announced to the Board a troubling and unexpected concern that had just arisen: Portland Parks and Recreation has decided not to renew the current agreement with SMILE for our operation Oaks Pioneer Church, by which we assumed maintenance of the facility, and no longer shares the revenue – an agreement that resolved the issue of previous mishandling of those funds, in violation of the preceding agreement between SMILE and PP&R – and now Portland Parks and Recreation has sent a detailed and restrictive written agreement proposal that SMILE pay PP&R 25% of all **gross** revenues from the church, while still bearing the responsibility of maintaining it. They also have expressed concern that holding weddings in the church is an inappropriate use of the facility, despite the fact that the church has always been used for that purpose, and is the source of practically all the revenues they now want a substantial part of.

It appears to SMILE that PP&R does not know or understand the background of how that National Historic Register listed church building happens to sit on their property on S.E. Spokane Street, nor how the current agreement came to be as it is – at their request, at the time it was agreed to. We do not find the new proposal acceptable, and Elaine O’Keefe said she wants to put together an annual report on the church’s operation and on SMILE that she can share with them to provide some perspective and background.

Pat Hainley then gave our Board Members the background of our agreements over many years with PP&R regarding the historic church building, and there followed considerable discussion on potential negotiations with PP&R.

We have requested that City Commissioner Carmen Rubio, who oversees PP&R, be involved in these negotiations, although so far PP&R has rejected that idea. The Board gave informal assent to the idea of negotiations proceeding at this point involving just three representatives of SMILE – President Elaine O’Keefe, Treasurer Pat Hainley, and our facilities Operations Manager, Chris Timberlake. Elaine will propose a meeting at SMILE Station with PP&R involving this team, and with the presence of a representative

from Commissioner Rubio's office included, on Wednesday, September 28, at 3:30 p.m., to discussion the future operations of Oaks Pioneer Church.

Next on the agenda was a "business operations update" from Ms. Timberlake, on both the church and SMILE Station. She said the church is now offering "micro-weddings", in which no more than 30 people are present, and with the reception also held at the church – she said this seems to fill a niche that our previous plans did not. She also reported that the architect's plans have arrived for the badly needed SMILE Station basement renovation, and application preparations are underway for the necessary permits. Our architect plans to appear at our October Board Meeting, and will have more information for the Board at that time.

Then the Board Meeting turned to discussion of the composition of SMILE's 2022-23 fiscal year budget, which runs annually from October to September of the following year. All committees and entities who wished to request funds be allocated for them in the upcoming fiscal year have submitted detailed and itemized requests, and the SMILE Financial Committee has gone over them to reconcile the requests with the anticipated revenue. The committee expects to re-evaluate the requests in mid-fiscal-year to adjust budget items upward and/or downward for the rest of the year as revenue and spending may require.

President O'Keefe went over the requests, and the committee's recommended adjustments, for the Board. The Board appeared to be positive about, and accepting of, the recommendations, offering few comments or suggestions. However, it was agreed that the adoption of the final budget – originally slated for this meeting – should instead be postponed until our October 19th Board Meeting, to allow more time for Treasurer Pat Hainley to review the recommendations – and to allow some time for further discussions with PP&R; since one of the main sources of revenue for SMILE is our income from Oaks Pioneer Church.

A speaker from Multnomah County who had requested twenty minutes, at a time certain, on this evening's agenda, to make a presentation on the new county rules restricting the use of home heating with wood stoves, failed to appear.

The Board expressed thanks to Emily Pitts and her husband for making and bringing to the Board Meeting, for the Board's refreshment, very tasty homemade lemon bars and fudge.

President O'Keefe then adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.