

Then President Elaine O’Keefe reported on the progress of the upcoming renovation of the SMILE Station basement into a second full-featured meeting room. The basement has been cleaned out to prepare for the next steps, courtesy of volunteer labor, especially from members of the Board. Permits for the work are currently under review at City Hall; the city wants an open shelter over our garbage cans, and wants our sewer line upgraded to the standards for a commercial kitchen. We have a commercial-grade kitchen, but it is not used as such – in fact it is not used often for any purpose; we are hoping to mitigate that request.

O’Keefe said SMILE and Sellwood Community House are in discussions of how we can better collaborate to our mutual benefit. We are particularly interested in better collaboration on neighborhood events and activities, especially in the summer. Jim Friscia said he would like SMILE to take a step back and discuss the details of such collaboration. The Boards of both organizations, it was suggested by Elizabeth Milner, should begin meetings to discuss and advance cooperation, with the first such meeting suggested for the next week. Jim would like to be a participant; Sarah and Jim volunteered to move forward on this for SMILE.

The next item of discussion was the experiment of starting the Board Meeting at 7 p.m. for the last three months; some like it more than others, but the fact that our Board and General Meetings have been starting at different times during this period has caused issues – particularly for those who can’t remember which meeting is which! Since the start time for both these meetings is 7:30 p.m. as stated in our ByLaws, which Brenda Ray Scott will be helping us with revising, MacKenzie Torres moved that the Board Meetings move back to a 7:30 p.m. start, pending reconsideration in our ByLaws update talks, and Eric Norberg seconded the motion, which passed with five yes votes, three no votes, and one abstention.

President O’Keefe asked for a formal Board decision on our holding our “neighborhood cleanup” this year. Most especially, she does not want SMILE to lose money on it this year. However, some Board Members had not yet arrived when Kris was speaking, and the late-arrivers said they still want to meet with Kris, and learn the numbers and the current cost/revenue situation, before a decision – so no formal decision was made at this time.

Brenda Ray Scott, a former SMILE Board Member who volunteered to Chair the upcoming revision and updating of our ByLaws, was next to speak. She said he had prepared for tonight’s meeting by reviewing our current ByLaws, reviewing the current “best practices” for ByLaws by 501c3 nonprofits like ourselves, and she would like to start a discussion with the Board. She said she finds our current ByLaws unusually and unnecessarily detailed, and that would put us on a path to their simplification. She sees some obvious additions and many simplifications needed, and she wants to remove the reference to “Robert’s Rules of Order”. She suggests more term limits for Board Members. But, she is worried about making our Annual (General) Meeting in May at this late date for adopting new ByLaws. She was assured that they can be updated by member vote at *any* General Meeting, and it is best to take our time with this and aim for the fall. President O’Keefe went over a list of things she would like to see updated; she will recap this discussion and keep us all advised as the process advances.

*** * * EXECUTIVE SESSION * * ***

Discussion of terms of a lease; legal advice included; room cleared for discussion

*** * * END EXECUTIVE SESSION * * ***

With the end of the Executive Session, MacKenzie Torres moved that the Board approve having Elaine O’Keefe and Pat Hainley authorized to sign the lease under discussion. David Dugan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. There being no other business on the agenda or from the floor, Elaine O’Keefe adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.