

The two SMILE members who appeared at our March 1 General Meeting, neighbors Doug Bridge and Judi Davis, have contacted President O’Keefe to ask if the SMILE Board would sign their petition to the city over traffic issues in the neighborhood, mostly on S.E. 13th. Sarah Bunger moved that the Board do that, and Emily Pitts seconded the motion. In the following discussion it was considered whether an entity like the Board could sign as an individual such a petition, or if would have to be individual Board Members if they chose to do so. But the question was called, and the motion carried with one abstention. Elaine O’Keefe said she would sign the petition on behalf of the Board, but it was unclear whether it would be noted that the vote to do so by the Board was not unanimous.

The task next was to perform the annual duty of appointing the SMILE Election Committee to gather nominations for Board and Officer seats, and to manage the election process at our May meeting, while being overseen by a representative of Southeast Uplift. Per the ByLaws, the committee is to be composed of two Board Members and at least one non-Board SMILE member. Elizabeth Milner and MacKenzie Torres volunteered to be the two Board members on the committee, and Vikki DeGaa has volunteered to be the non-Board “SMILE member” on the committee, so the committee was established and activated.

President O’Keefe reported that demolition has begun in the SMILE Station basement in preparation for the planned remodel, for which the permit is expected shortly. Although it appears that we will not have to rebuild and expand the sewer system in the building as the city had originally requested, we will be required to build a cover for our garbage and recycling bins, she said.

Vice President Milner reported that after the Events Committee consulted further with Kris Heiberg about the possibility of having our May 20th Community Cleanup again this year, and after learning what’s involved in doing so, it has been decided to go ahead and do it – in the south parking lot of Westmoreland Park, as usual. Plans include fundraising events on-site. Reportedly the permit for it has been secured.

Jim Friscia reported briefly on our planned slate of summer events/concerts for the community; he is working with both the Sellwood Moreland Business Alliance (SMBA) business association and Sellwood Community House on it.

There being no other matters remaining on the agenda or offered from the floor, Pat Hainley moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Emily Pitts seconded the motion, which then carried with evident unanimity.

SPECIAL NOTE: Subsequent to this meeting, President O’Keefe determined that the scheduled April 5 SMILE General Meeting was in conflict on that date with a significant religious holiday, which could keep some SMILE members from attending, so she took action to move the meeting to the following Wednesday, April 12. Since the SMILE Secretary would be unable to attend on the new date, O’Keefe said she herself would keep the minutes of that meeting. The April Board Meeting is still to take place a week later – as planned – on April 19.