



counted, the actual number is higher. He cited statistics showing the extent of the problem, and then went on to discuss potential solutions in process. “Multnomah County and Portland are already spending half of their ‘homeless budgets’ on housing solutions,” he said.

The next arranged speaker was Matt McCarl of “Cultivate Initiatives” – a nonprofit that started in Outer East Portland – the original focus of which was just on severe weather shelters. Now, it operates a Safe Rest Village at East 122nd and Burnside. It has further branched out to offer a “workforce development initiative”, which offers both paid and unpaid internships to those providing community service. It also has a “community health initiative” which mainly offers hygiene services, and has the use of a “mobile shower truck”. In addition, it has developed a “master lease partnership”, which co-signs leases for those needing housing but who lack a credit history. His advice to SMILE was, “Just keep showing up and keep talking.”

Following these two presentations a lengthy question-and-answer period followed, in which – with a single exception – the attendees were generally supportive of these efforts to address homelessness.

At 9:11 p.m. the meeting was adjourned by SMILE President Elaine O’Keefe.