SMILE General Meeting minutes

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 At SMILE Station, S.E. 13th at Tenino

Main Website Procedural www.SellwoodMoreland.org <>>> www.SMILErecords.org

OFFICERS PRESENT: Elaine O'Keefe, President; Elizabeth Milner, Vice President; Pat Hainley, Secretary Eric Norberg

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

SMILE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Judi Davis, Brian and Claudia McCarter, Doug Bridge, Cathy Ingram, David Schoellhamer, Tom Sterusu, Tina Osterink, Mikki Cecil, Rachel Weber, Susan Clark, Tevse Scott, Ezra Cohen

VISITORS: Connie Shipley (Royal Rosarians)

The meeting was called to order by SMILE President Elaine O'Keefe at 7:31 p.m., after which she invited attendees to introduce themselves, around the room. With a quorum present, she invited a review of the minutes of the November 2022 SMILE General Meeting minutes (not passed yet) and of the January 2023 minutes (the February General Meeting was cancelled, so this was the first opportunity to pass these minutes). After the review, Rachel Weber moved the November minutes be approved as submitted, Bob Burkholder seconded the motion, and the motion passed with one abstention. Then Dave Weber moved that the January minutes be approved as submitted; Rachel Weber seconded the motion, and that motion passed with two abstentions.

First on the agenda were Doug Bridge and Judi Davis – neighbors, both of whom are concerned about speed issues on S.E. 13th Avenue, and other streets around the neighborhood. They did a survey and found that in nearby neighborhoods there are characteristically more impediments (traffic signals, stop signs, crosswalks) that help bring down the speed of passing motorists than are found in Sellwood-Westmoreland. They have discussed the matter with PBOT, and have produced and circulated a petition asking for a review of this matter, and already have signatures from 30 businesses and 90 individuals in our neighborhood (and they are soliciting more). Elaine O'Keefe pointed out that SMILE could host a public meeting between one or more PBOT representatives and interested neighbors, for a public discussion of this potential safety problem. Elaine added that she had this same day met for coffee with a local businessperson who expressed similar concerns about speeding vehicles on S.E. Bybee Boulevard in Westmore4land.

Most of the remainder of the agenda for this evening's meeting consisted of reports from some of SMILE's many committees.

President O'Keefe first introduced **Jim Friscia** of the new ad-hoc **SMILE Events Committee**. For the second year, Jim observed, we are only getting one "Summer Free For All" summer concert (before the pandemic we had one every Monday throughout July); it will most likely be on the evening of July 15, in Sellwood Park. Consequently SMILE is presenting several more local summer concerts on Saturday evenings in July and August using local talent, as we did last summer. There are other events planned as well; we are seeking volunteers to help in presenting all these events, and volunteers need do participate in no more of them than they want to. Any help is welcome. Grants and donations of funds would be very helpful too.

Next to present was **Tom Hickey**, Chair of the new ad-hoc **SMILE Housing Solutions Committee**. He reminded us that despite its name, this committee does not yet have solutions to such problems – it is researching the problems, and lobbying for solutions. "We have an obligation to help people out of it [homelessness]". Can the community provide more services to those who need them? The committee in particular wants to help in projects already underway. He said he is passionate about "micro-villages" – in parking lots, back yards, etc. – and he is

putting together a tour of such micro-villages to find out what makes them successful, and to help us determine whether there are any locations in our neighborhood appropriate for these.

The next presentation involved a committee, and its subcommittee: **Tina Osterink** was present to represent the SMILE Stewardship of Natural Amenities ("SNAC") Committee - and was accompanied by Ezra Cohen, Chair of a current subcommittee of SNAC, the "Friends of **Oaks Bottom**" Committee. Tina spoke first: SNAC is responsible for the creation and maintenance of two informal public parks on public lands: The Oaks Bottom Overlook Pocket Park at the S.E. 13th Avenue curve to Bybee Boulevard, and the "Springwater Meadows" park adjacent to the railroad tracks in the southwest corner of Sellwood. It also conducts local demonstrations and projects. Volunteers are more than welcome. (Friends of Moreland Woods was a SNAC subcommittee too, but now is a committee of the Sellwood Community House.) Ezra was next to speak, recalling that his subcommittee at various times was a SMILE committee, an independent group, and then was inactive; but he joined in reactivating the group some three years ago, and now as a SMILE subcommittee it can receive tax-deductible donations under SMILE's 501c3 status. "We work with Portland Parks to hold events, such as cleanups in Oaks Bottom, every two months. On March 11 we will have one for invasive species removal; volunteers are welcome, but please sign up in advance, since PP&R limits the number of people who can be involved." The subcommittee is planning a "Celebrate Oaks Bottom" festival this summer – tentatively, on July 8th, 10-2 midday. More on this soon.

David Schoellhamer, Chair of the **SMILE Land Use Committee**, was next – explaining that the committee is partly a facilitator of conversations between neighbors, the city, and developers. The next committee meeting is on April 6 - a "contact meeting" between neighbors and the developer who wants to build a 112-unit apartment house on the vacant triangle of land just west of the Sellwood "Les Schwab Tires" store. "We track development, and provide expertise to the community; we occasionally do advocacy."

Rachel Weber, of the ad-hoc **SMILE Communications Committee** followed, asking those present to keep her appraised of any local planned events to add to the SMILE online calendar. She also asked for suggestions for a volunteer webmaster for the SMILE main website – www.SellwoodMoreland.org. The volunteer would help keep the SMILE website up to date.

President O'Keefe reminded those present that SMILE has several other committees involved in aspects of the community, and all of them need volunteers to serve on their committees. "It's a great way to meet people and get involved in your community." Attend a few committee meetings, she suggested, and see if any appeal to you. She also reminded we have an annual two-month "SMILE Elections Committee" which needs two members from the main SMILE Board and one member from the community at large immediately – their role being to seek candidates for Board seats in our upcoming annual election at the May SMILE General Meeting. And we are also seeking candidates for the Board; and also attendees at the May meeting to form a quorum to vote in the Board election, which will be overseen by the Southeast Uplift neighborhood coalition.

A brief appearance followed by Connie Shipley, a Royal Rosarian who will oversee our annual "Milk Carton Boat Races" -- the last official Rose Festival Event of the year, and it's right in our neighborhood at Westmoreland's Casting Pond. She promised a great day for individuals and families this year – following a Sellwood Community House milk-carton-boat clinic, and featuring a food drive led by the event's new sponsor, Alpenrose Dairy.

President O'Keefe mentioned at the end of the meeting that SMILE has been hearing resident objections about the city's sudden removal of old lamp standards in Parks, including Sellwood Park. The Board may write a letter to the city about this. With that, Pat Hainley moved adjournment; Bob Burkholder seconded; and the motion passed unanimously at 9:05 p.m.