

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 apprised 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.