

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2023
at SMILE Station in Sellwood

Main Website Procedural
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OFFICERS PRESENT: David Dugan, President [*via ZOOM*]; Eric Norberg, Secretary; Pat Hainley, Treasurer
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Friscia [*via ZOOM*], Grant Huling, Elaine O’Keefe, Bob Burkholder; MacKenzie Torres; Tracy Fisher
GUESTS: Laurie King; Barbara Bernstein

SMILE President David Dugan, attending the meeting via ZOOM, called the August Board Meeting of SMILE to order at 7:36 p.m., and began by asking for a review of the July 19 Board Meeting minutes – one omission was noted and corrected, after which Tracy Fisher (who had called attention to the error) made a motion that the minutes be approved as amended. Bob Burkholder seconded the motion; and the motion carried unanimously.

Dugan then introduced two women who had requested they asked to be added to tonight’s meeting agenda to put on a presentation; it developed that only one was a resident of our neighborhood – Barbara Bernstein – but that Laurie King, who had been making this presentation to a variety of Portland neighborhood associations, is a resident of Linnton. The matter they wished to draw attention to dealt with a large number of storage tanks, many containing potentially inflammable and/or hazardous substances, which are situated near the St. Johns neighborhood in Northwest Portland, on what is believed to be “fill” land, and thus subject to liquefaction in the event of a major earthquake. The matter has been the subject of news coverage for a couple of years.

Ms. King in her presentation said she believes that some of these storage tanks may be leaking toxic substances. She also voiced concerns about possible train derailments in the area. She was particularly critical of a company engaged in the railroad transport of oil, “Zenith Energy”. She distributed flyers for upcoming protest events, and asked for SMILE to “sign on” to a form letter they have prepared, as a “sponsor”. Two members of the SMILE Board expressed reservations about taking such action without actually researching the matter for themselves, rather than simply accepting what was presented at this meeting. However, Elaine O’Keefe made a motion that the SMILE Board sign onto this letter, which apparently was prepared by an “emerging coalition committee”, and which is incorporated into these minutes by reference. Bob Burkholder seconded the motion. In the subsequent vote, there were seven ayes and one abstention, so the motion was adopted.

Next, President Dugan led a “SMILE budget update”, along with Treasurer Pat Hainley. Pat commented, “As of July, we’re doing quite nicely.” We are \$15,000 ahead of budget, he said, even without factoring in the city grant received for the remodel of the SMILE Station basement. (We are down to the last \$40,000 of the grant, Pat told us, not quite enough to do everything we wanted.) Elaine O’Keefe asked how close we are to finishing the basement renovation project? The answer was, “pretty close”. O’Keefe observed that, at that point, we will be able to prioritize the expenditures for the rest of our fiscal year (which ends September 30th). Elaine also mentioned that some landscape repair is going to be needed at SMILE Station when the project is done.

President Dugan called the Board’s attention to exceptional service from Gus at Make It So Printing, who did a nice job on a new SMILE banner for display at our summer concerts, putting aside other work to get it done fast, and without charge to SMILE.

Grant Huling, new Chair of the “Community Safety”/Crime Prevention Committee, announced that the September General Meeting will center on issues of community safety – he envisions it as “an open discussion meeting” on this topic, although he is attempting to arrange one or more guest speakers, too.

There followed a brief discussion of problem traffic locations in the neighborhood, and the logistics of how to mitigate them.

At 8:33 p.m., President Dugan asked that the room and ZOOM be cleared of anyone not a Board Member, for an Executive Session dealing with legal matters related to our negotiations with the City of Portland for our continued operation of the Oaks Pioneer Church. No publicly-available minutes are kept in Executive Sessions.

<<<<EXECUTIVE SESSION; NO MEETING MINUTES KEPT>>>>

At 8:49 p.m. President Dugan ended the Executive Session, and reopened the meeting to all attendees. Grant Huling said he would be willing to also Chair the SMILE Transportation Committee, which still has members, but which has had no Chair for some time, and thus no recent meetings. David Dugan thanked him, and appointed him to this additional Committee Chair position.

There being no other business on the agenda or offered from the floor, Pat Hainley moved that the meeting be adjourned, Bob Burkholder seconded the motion. The subsequent Board vote was unanimously in favor, at 8:55 p.m.