SMILE General Meeting minutes

Wednesday, September 6, 2023 At SMILE Station, S.E. 13th at Tenino

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

OFFICERS PRESENT: David Dugan, President; Elizabeth Milner, Vice President; Pat Hainley, Treasurer; Eric Norberg, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Burkholder, Elaine O'Keefe, MacKenzie Torres, Grant Huling, Tracy Fisher

SMILE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Ed Nunez, Cindi Rice, April Hasson, Max Schwarz, Holly Stern, Marnie and Greg McAllister, Eric Miller, Lance Goldenberg, Richard Benson, Vicki Monsey, J.P.Perry, Bill and Lauralee Symes, Creed Breke, Alison Joy, Michael Kennedy, Bernie Murphy, Sue Safford, Kari Kohlmann, Sarah Bunger, Cindy Barrett, Erin Salimenn, Juliana James, Marianne Nelson, Scott Kelly, Pat and Carrie Brunett, Barbara Lee Wright, Grigson Christopohe, Henrik Bothe

VISITORS: Central Precinct NRT Officer William Green

The meeting was called to order by SMILE President David Dugan at 7:34 p.m. Seeing the sizeable crowd present for tonight's "community safety" themed meeting, he called on everyone present to introduce themselves, around the room. At the conclusion of the introductions, Dugan asked for a review of the May and June SMILE General Meeting minutes (there were no General Meetings in July and August), and when the review was completed he asked if there were any corrections for the minutes. The misspelling of a name in the May minutes was reported, and those minutes were so amended. Then Bob Burkholder moved that both sets of minutes be adopted as they now stood; Tracy Fisher seconded the motion; and the motion carried with no nay votes, but two abstentions.

The first item on the agenda was a report to the community by April Hasson, a Community Outreach person for the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (and a resident of this neighborhood), on the upcoming "Sellwood Sewer Extension Project" (which also includes a few scattered sewer repairs in Westmorland as well). She pointed out that the sewer lines in the neighborhood are 80 to 100 years old, and are deteriorating. In addition, 53 sewer connections are "nonconforming", and need to be corrected (in which the sewer line to a second property joins with that of a host property before going to the sewer main in the street – no longer an accepted method of connection). She pointed out that often it is less expensive to a homeowner to have a private contractor take care of correcting nonconforming sewer connections, rather than relying on the city to do it during sewer repairs.

Construction on this project will begin in January, and the complete project will take two years – although, at any given single location, the work should take no more than four to six weeks. Sewer and water service will continue uninterrupted at all involved locations during construction, and driveway access to private property is to be generally available – but parking on the street in active project areas will not be permitted, to keep the streets open for construction. Most work will be done during the day, but there will be some work in the 9 pm to 6 am time period – up to 25 nights of it on Tacoma Street, and up to five nights on 13th Avenue. She reminded that any sewer problems or street flooding can *always* be reported, on a 24/7 basis, to this number: 503/823-1700.

Next on the agenda was the program for the General Meeting assembled by Grant Huling, new Chair of the Standing SMILE Crime Prevention Committee, also informally called the "Community Safety Committee". After his introductory remarks, which centered on the community resources available to residents from Portland City Bureaus, and how to reach them, Grant introduced Central Precinct NRT ("Neighborhood Response Team") Officer William Green. Green, a Franklin High graduate early in this century, born and raised in Inner Southeast Portland, and has been a police officer for 12 years for the Portland Police Bureau – a NRT Officer since 2017.

After introducing himself, the officer began answering questions from those present, starting with how to discourage car prowls (car break-ins). Early questions also concerned Portland Police staffing levels, and their effect on policing in the community; enforcement at critical crosswalks; and prosecution of criminals by the District Attorney. He suggested that at <u>any</u> time, questions, tips, etc., could be directed to him personally by email – <u>william.green@police.portlandoregon.gov</u>. Continuing to answer questions from attendees, he counseled that graffiti should be removed fast – "the sooner you get rid of it the better". Leaving it there encourages much more of it, very quickly. He said the "Safe Rest Village" at Milwaukie and Gideon, just north of the Brooklyn neighborhood, has had "a major, major impact" on the homeless population in that area.

Eric Miller, a former SMILE Board Member, showed some photographs and videos of major fireworks being set off, on the evening of July 4, in Sellwood Park, including major "display type" fireworks – but despite its noise, and its fire hazard in that forested park, there were no Park Rangers or any police presence during this long evening of illegal fireworks. He suggested SMILE's Crime Prevention Committee form a subcommittee to focus on "fireworks safety" in 2024. He asked Officer Green if the PPD has the resources to work with SMILE on this problem? Green replied, "Holidays are tough for us. We can try. But the Portland Fire Bureau should be alerted – they are a better resource for this issue." Sellwood resident Henrik Bothe remarked that, "The big Oaks Park fireworks show attracts idiots from all over, who then stay in the neighborhood and set off big stuff in Sellwood Park."

Officer Green responded to a question by pointing out that crime statistics for our own neighborhood are available through "Portland Maps", including a breakdown for individual types of crimes. When asked by an attendee what the number-one concern is of the Portland Police Bureau, Green replied without hesitation, "Fentanyl is the most serious thing I have ever seen." He said that it can even harm or kill if a little of the powder just touches the skin. "And 92% of everything [drug-related] we test at the State Crime Lab contains fentanyl."

At the end of Officer Green's presentation, he received thanks from several attendees for the work of the Portland Police, and a round of applause for his appearance in person. The hour, at that point, being 9 p.m., the time of adjournment, President David Dugan announced that the monthly Board Meeting is also open to the public, and would be just two weeks from tonight, September 20, at 7:30 p.m. He then – amidst a confusion of efforts to move for adjournment, announced this meeting as adjourned, at 9:01 p.m.