SMILE General Meeting minutes

Wednesday, October 4, 2023 At SMILE Station, S.E. 13th at Tenino

Main WebsiteProceduralwww.SellwoodMoreland.org<<>>www.SMILErecords.org

OFFICERS PRESENT: David Dugan, President (*via ZOOM*); Elizabeth Milner, Vice President; Pat Hainley, Treasurer; Eric Norberg, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Burkholder, Elaine O'Keefe, Jim Friscia (*via ZOOM*), Grant Huling, Tracy Fisher

 SMILE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Ruth & Steve Kaser, Scott Kelly, Dubi Davis, Carla Pastore, Vikki DeGaa, Georgia Funnell, Anne Smyth, Tracy Leima, Brynna Brenton, Paige Moya, Lance Goldenberg, Pat & Carrie Brunett, J. P. Perry, Cindy Barrett, Jon Reid, Lucy Leiser, Cindy von Ofenhein, Emily Pitts
VISITORS: Abra McNair, Nanci Champlin, Darlene Urban Garrett

The meeting was called to order by SMILE President David Dugan, presiding via ZOOM,

at 7:31 p.m. He then turned over the moderating of the meeting to Vice President Elizabeth Milner, although he remained present throughout the meeting. The first item of business was the self-introductions of all of those present, around the room.

Then, Elizabeth asked those present who were SMILE Members to review for approval the minutes of the previous General Meeting on September 6th. After the review, Tracy Fisher moved they be approved as submitted, and Grant Huling seconded the motion – which then carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was a previously-promised report by Grant Huling as the new Chair of the standing SMILE Crime Prevention Committee (also known as the "Community Safety Committee") about an unusual shooting incident reported on September 23, in which a car was shot at from the vicinity of Portland Memorial on S.E. 14th, after which it proceeded northward to its eventual location on Martins Street. Grant has kept in touch with Central Precinct NRT Officer Green, and has learned that the two teens in the car were not injured, and actually live near 136th and Powell – adding that although they were the targets of the shooting, they are under arrest, because the car they were driving was stolen. The shooting may be gang-related, and it appears all involved parties know each other. But the shooter, although apparently identified, has not yet been found. Grant said he has kids in Llewellyn School, and he still is NOT worried about their attending that school; this occurrence seems to be a "real outlier".

Grant also referred to a teen stabbing incident someplace in the neighborhood recently – a teen was under attack, and a teen who intervened was stabbed – but the injuries are not serious, and the attacker was been identified and dealt with (he is 33 years old).

David Schoellhamer, Chair of the SMILE Land Use Committee, was next. At the committee's own meeting, just before the General meeting, there was an extensive discussion of proposed relaxation of regulations imposed on builders by the city to encourage more rental housing. The key proposal affecting SMILE would be the suspending of specific regulations for five years – including the neighborhood contact and signage requirements, articulation design rules (boxy buildings would be permitted),

the mixed-use requirement in business districts, the ground floor height requirement, and the requirement for bicycle parking. The committee is preparing testimony on these proposed changes to present to the SMILE Board on October 18 for approval. A woman present, who said she had researched the matter just today, reported that at present there are 7,500 apartments available for rent in Portland – so there is not a shortage. A man present added that Portland's population is currently declining, not growing – and, he said, homelessness is not addressed by the construction of "more expensive high-rise rentals". It was also noted that in this proposed relaxation of regulations there was not any mention of reducing any of the fees or taxes bearing on such projects.

Next, Abra McNair, the project manager for PBOT of current plans to make the pedestrian crossing at S.E. 14th and Bybee Boulevard safer for those crossing – especially kids walking to and from Llewellyn Elementary School – went over the current plans for the intersection project, in a series of PowerPoint slides. There followed a great many comments and suggestions from meeting attendees, and McNair took notes; this interaction lasted for over twenty minutes. She invited further contact to her directly at 503/623-5156, or by email to – abra.mcnair@portlandoregon.gov

Finally, the last half hour of the SMILE October General Meeting featured Nanci Champlin of Southeast Uplift and Darlene Urban Garrett of Neighbors West and Neighbors Northwest. SMILE, Reed, Eastmoreland, and a bit of Ardenwald will be shifted from the Southeast's neighborhood support nonprofit Coalition – Southeast Uplift – to the organization west of the Willamette which Ms. Garrett represents. Nanci began by telling the background and history of Southeast Uplift operations, founded in 1974. Garrett started out with the comment, "Moving you is weird, but Nanci and I work together well... You now have **two** coalitions looking out for you, and that's significant." Her organization was founded in 1977; it will go from representing 11 neighborhoods to 34, and she expects increased staffing to handle the enlarged job.

There were many comments and questions directed at the two; the first was on the subject of slow response at the Portland Bureau of Emergency Services' 9-1-1 Center. Then attendees then asked if there will be new roles for the Coalitions; how this whole arrangement will work; and whether the neighborhoods will have any role in the new form of Portland City Government. Garrett said all of these were excellent questions but there are, as yet, no clear answers; the new Coalition structures and roles are touched on in a body of proposed rules which the City Council will be voting on before the end of the month, but the brief comment period on them ends TOMORROW NIGHT, and requests for an extension of time to comment has not been responded to. Garrett suggested all concerned about this rush to pass these undefined and vague rules, which will bind the Coalitions and the neighborhoods, be sure to get in their comments to the city before the comment period closes tomorrow night. She added the she, Nanci Champlin, and many interested citizens, plan to be in the City Council chambers when the proposal is coming up for a vote, to ask hard questions and make objections as necessary.

The discussion period went past the scheduled 9 p.m. adjournment time, and when President David and Vice President Elizabeth attempted to conclude the meeting, the sizeable crowd present took it upon themselves to get up, and start stacking chairs and putting away tables, while continuing to discuss this issue with the two speakers and with each other. Thus it was that, uniquely, the meeting adjourned itself, without either a motion or a declaration of adjournment by a moderator, at 9:12 p.m.