



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.