

**Minutes**  
**SMILE Community Safety Committee Meeting**  
**6:00 PM, 12/20/2023 at the SMILE Station**

**Attendees:**

Guest RJ DeMello of Transition Projects (RJ), Creed Bruce (CB) (Secretary), Grant Huling (GH) (Chair), Patrick Brunett (PB), Suzanne Kruse (SK)

Minutes from 10/18/23 approved with date correction.

**Vandalism Abatement:**

GH recapped that SMILE has adopted and allowed the Community Safety Committee (CSC) to fundraise. GH has purchased sacrificial coating as a graffiti control for use by Tag Busters as well as the CSC. It was recommended that Grant approach SMILE to receive reimbursement. PB is looking into applying the coating to a bench on SE Sellwood Blvd, overlooking Oaks Bottom.

The CSC contacted the City of Portland to replace a damaged trash can at Sellwood Park. The City will provide the trash can and protective enclosure. It is up to the community to provide a concrete base and any type of painted decoration on the enclosure. GH has discussed the enclosure with members of the neighborhood and seems to have secured funding, an artist to paint the enclosure and a contractor to construct the concrete base. The contractor is not interested in dealing with permits.

**Willamette Center:**

RJ reviewed the terms of use of the center. 120 inhabitants, focusing on women, couples, pets, and children. Started accepting residents on Monday, Dec. 18th. Lindsey Prutch is the Program Manager. RJ speaks highly of her management style, and mentioned the staff watch the residents. Staff cannot physically move campers.

CB/PH/SK expressed concern that tents and camping will expand in the neighborhood and how difficult it was in the neighborhood a couple years ago. That coaching only is not acceptable to them, and they requested that the staff participate in reporting camping in the area. The CSC requested that RJ investigate ways for Willamette Center to support additional involvement with reporting camping. RJ was asked to investigate ways for management to get more involved with reporting tents, etc. GH said that CSC should expect that, since Transition Projects is against tent sweeps, it, and not the Willamette Center should expect to carry more burden for reporting tents. The CSC should develop a relationship with Lindsey and work collaboratively to remove campers around the perimeter of the center. It was also requested if community members can serve as a witness, with a photo of a suspected offender, if there are problems. (No response on this question as of yet.) Additionally, RJ said he can conduct outreach to campers on the block.

After some discussion, the CSC voted to participate in the Adopt One Block program for a one year commitment, with the Willamette Center being expected to join. The program is designed to allow two entities to adopt a block. In conversation with GH, some members of the Housing Solutions Committee had expressed interest in partnering with the CSC on this, however, their committee is doing other work with Willamette Center and have not communicated recently on the topic.

**Statement of Values:**

GH proposed a draft statement of values for the sake of setting internal standards as well as communicating principles to the outside world. PB recommended a change to indicate that the CSC represents community members, and the CSC approved the Statement of Values, attached.

Meeting Adjourned.

*Draft*  
*Minutes approval to be voted on by attendees of the next SMILE Community Safety*  
*Meeting, occurring February 21, 2024 at the SMILE Station from*  
*6:00 to 7:00 PM. Meeting open to all SMILE members.*

## **SMILE Community Safety Committee Statement of Values**

Members of the Community Safety Committee (CSC) will strive to uphold these values in all their activities related to SMILE:

**Responsiveness** - SMILE CSC represents members of the Sellwood-Moreland community and so has a responsibility to acknowledge and respond to community safety concerns brought to it.

**Collaboration** - SMILE CSC proactively seeks to share information and find areas of potential collaboration with other stakeholders, including other SMILE Committees, businesses, schools, District Coalitions, the Portland Police Bureau, non-profit organizations, and the public directly, through social media.

**Transparency** - SMILE CSC's meetings and their minutes are open to the public. CSC does not make important decisions in secrecy. CSC shares what it knows about safety issues with the community, in the interest of preempting rumors and enabling residents to make more informed decisions.

**Legality** - SMILE CSC is lawful. It rejects vigilantism and recognizes that the enforcement of the law is the purview of law enforcement agencies, not neighborhood associations or individuals.

**Courage** - It often takes courage to speak or act in the fraught realm of crime and community safety. Where the reason not to act is merely "that would sure take courage," SMILE CSC acts.

CSC membership voted unanimously to approve this statement on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.