

# SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

## April 17, 2024

### At SMILE Station

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Grant Huling, Elaine O'Keefe, Bob Burkholder; Jim Friscia, Tracy Fisher

**GUESTS:** Vikki DeGaa, Ruth Kaser, Mark Lakeman, Kate Duffly, Molly Kentner

SMILE President David Dugan called the meeting to order in the newly repaired and renovated upstairs meeting room at SMILE Station, at 7:31 p.m. — and began by asking for a review of the March 20, 2024, Board Meeting minutes. Pat Hainley made a motion that the minutes be approved as submitted. Tracy Fisher seconded the motion; and it then carried unanimously.

First on the agenda was a presentation on a proposed new “Community Gathering Space”, by Vikki DeGaa, Ruth Kaser, and Mark Lakeman (Lakeman originated the painted intersection concept with “Share-It Square” on Sherritt Street in Sellwood). The presentation included photos of the “Arleta Triangle” – a closed section of city street turned into a community gathering space on the north side of Woodstock Boulevard in the Mt. Scott-Arleta neighborhood.

Their proposal centered on closing a street, presumably central to both Sellwood and Westmoreland, to serve as such a community gathering space here. No perfect street for such a purpose was suggested, and apparently the proposal was presented to determine interest in the idea, and perhaps to encourage thought about a street in our neighborhoods that could be permanently closed for such a purpose. No action was taken at this time.

Kate Duffly and Molly Kentner were next, seeking SMILE approval their idea of a summer community parade, to be called the “Summer Solstice Parade”, on Saturday, June 22, starting and ending at the north end of Sellwood Park. The Board expressed general approval of the idea. [Subsequently, Duffly and Kentner applied to the city for a permit for the parade, and received one – but, for the weekend prior: Saturday, June 15 – at 1:30 p.m., for the route proposed.]

Grant Huling, member of the SMILE Board and Chair of both our Land Use and our Transportation Committees, presented to the Board a letter from the latter committee for approval by SMILE and submission to the city, concerning the need for PBOT to follow through on its longtime promise to revisit the cut-through-traffic problem in Sellwood by commuters seeking to avoid traffic congestion on Tacoma Street from the heavy commuter traffic there, by cutting around the long line on side streets. [The letter is incorporated into these minutes by reference.] The Board unanimously adopted the letter and approved its submission to the Portland Bureau of Transportation.

President Dugan next discussed upcoming SMILE events with the Board, inviting Board Member participation in them: The May SMILE annual Neighborhood Clean-Up on May 18, and the SMILE Open House for the community on May 11, which will show off the recent remodel and repair of SMILE Station. He also made reference to our upcoming schedule of summer concerts, which also need help from volunteers.

Dugan then turned to the upcoming annual Board Election at our General Meeting on May 1. We are gathering candidates for the four open Officer positions and the five open Board Seats (one represents the mid-term resignation of a Board Member who found it impossible to make our meetings since her election last year; the fifth-highest vote getter in the Board Member election will replace her in that seat, and will complete her term until May 2025, at which time that person can run for re-election to a full term if desired). As usual, Southeast Uplift will oversee our election and will announce the winners when the balloting is complete.

Lastly Dugan discussed the likelihood that if we – and the other Southeast neighborhoods assigned to District 4 in the new City Council, which is otherwise based on the west side of the Willamette – meet the city criteria to do so, we may all be allowed to continue to be represented by our own coalition, Southeast Uplift, as we have been. This will not affect our being in voting District 4, however. Any change in that status cannot happen until after the next Census is complete.

With that, Dugan announced the meeting as adjourned.