

## **SMILE General Meeting minutes**

**Wednesday, May 1, 2024**

**SMILE Station**

Main Website

Procedural

<http://www.SellwoodMoreland.org> <<>> <http://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, Tracy Fisher, Grant Huling, Suzanne Kruse, Jim Friscia  
**SMILE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** David & Kelley Stipe, Miriam Erb; Cory Guidry, Mary Eastwood, Stuart S., Gwen Jacobs, April Hassan, Sue Safford, Marianne Nelson, Larkin Hastings, Michael Hayes, Jason Sturgill (*Sturgill and fourteen others attended virtually, via ZOOM*)  
**GUESTS:** Connie Shipley

The meeting was called to order by SMILE President David Dugan at 7:36 p.m. He led self-introductions of everyone present, around the room – and, with a quorum attained, he asked those present to review the past three General Meeting minutes for approval: December 8, 2023; February 7 and April 3, 2024. (The January meeting was cancelled due to the historic winter and ice storm which caused damage to SMILE Station; the March meeting was cancelled due to a lack of topics on the agenda.) After the pause to allow those present to review all three sets of minutes, Pat Hainley moved that all three be accepted as presented; Jim Friscia seconded; and the motion carried without objection.

President Dugan then reported that SMILE had been participating in talks with the three other Inner Southeast neighborhoods which the city placed in the new City Council District 4 – which otherwise consists of every neighborhood west of the Willamette River – about the desirability of remaining under the representational umbrella of the Southeast Uplift District Coalition, if it could be arranged. The other three neighborhoods are Eastmoreland, Reed, and the City of Portland section of Milwaukie’s Ardenwald-Johnson Creek neighborhood.

And indeed, the city does have a procedure for such a change – which requires the neighborhoods be contiguous, and requires a super-majority vote of the membership in each of the neighborhoods to do so (67% majority). For this reason, on tonight’s Board Election ballot there is a question to be determined by the voters – whether they prefer SMILE to continue to be represented by Southeast Uplift, or be shifted to a District Coalition on the west side of the Willamette. The other three involved neighborhoods will have such a question on their own Board Election ballots this month as well. If the vote in all four neighborhoods is to stay with Southeast Uplift, the effort can proceed.

Dugan cautioned that this effort will have **no** effect on SMILE currently being assigned to the District 4 city voting district west of the Willamette River (that can potentially only change if the next Census finds more population in District 4

than it found in the last Census); this will only affect which District Coalition represents SMILE and the other three neighborhoods. There are some good citywide reasons for the return of these four neighborhoods to Southeast Uplift membership; it would better balance the number of neighborhoods assigned to each of the four remaining District Coalitions – each of which will receive the exact same (somewhat reduced) budget from the city to serve its member neighborhoods. And, of course, it would keep SMILE and the other three neighborhoods with the District Coalition that has always represented us.

With that announcement, the meeting moved on to the matter of our annual Board Election, in which all four officer positions – each with a one-year term – are open, and all four of the two-year Board at-large positions expiring this year are open, as is the remainder of the term of a Board Member elected to a two-year term last year, who has now resigned the seat. The fifth-highest vote-getter in the at-large Board seat election will complete the remaining year of that term, and – as all Board Members can – will be able to run for re-election for a full Board term next year if she or he wishes. The candidates for these positions were invited to make their own candidate statements at this point in the meeting.

For the one-year officer positions, three current officers are running for re-election unopposed: President, Vice President, and Treasurer. This year, there is a challenge to the incumbent for Secretary, with Mary Eastwood seeking the position, with the incumbent Eric Norberg seeking re-election. All five officer candidates spoke about their candidacy.

For the five open seats of the eight at-large Board positions, there were nine candidates. Four were incumbents seeking re-election: Zack Duffly, Jim Friscia, Grant Huling, and Suzanne Kruse. The additional new candidates were Corey Guidry, April Hasson, Larkin Hastings, Kelley Stipe, & Jason Sturgill. All spoke.

Dugan asked if there were any last-minute candidates in the room or online via ZOOM, and no further volunteers spoke up. He then closed the nominations, and turned the election over to a representative of Southeast Uplift (which has been supervising our elections for years). The final ballot was posted online for voting, and Southeast Uplift qualifies each voter to cast a vote (they have to be a resident of our neighborhood, or a land or business owner in our neighborhood, or an employee in our neighborhood), prevents duplicate votes, closes the voting the following evening at 9 p.m., tabulates the votes, and reports the results.

President Dugan remarked that all the candidates would be excellent additions to our Board – but there are more candidates than there are available seats; he told anyone not elected tonight there are many ways to get involved in SMILE, and he urged them to do so. Pat Hainley then moved adjournment; Suzanne Kruse seconded; and the motion carried unanimously at 8:35 p.m.

## **ADDENDUM**

At the conclusion of the SMILE Board Election process it supervised and counted the vote for, Southeast Uplift announced that all four SMILE officer positions were won again by those seeking re-election.

In the at-large Board Member election, all four incumbents were re-elected for a two-year term. In the competition for the remaining partial Board seat term – to complete the second half of a two-year term of a Board Member who has resigned in the middle of the term – the highest vote-getter in the election among those competing to join the SMILE Board turned out to be Jason Sturgill, so he was elected to the Board for one year until the May election in 2025, at which time he will have the same opportunity as any Board Member to run for re-election to a full two-year term.

As concerns the advisory question on the ballot as to whether the SMILE membership favors the effort to remain represented by Southeast Uplift, despite our neighborhood being moved into the district encompassing the entire part of Portland west of the Willamette River into the new City Council voting District 4, the approval by the SMILE voters was over 98%, thus assisting the quest by SMILE, ENA, the Reed neighborhood, and the Portland section of the Ardenwald-Johnson Creek neighborhood to remain represented by the Southeast Uplift District Coalition, as each of these neighborhoods always has been.