

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2024

A virtual ZOOM meeting

Main Website

www.SellwoodMoreland.org

Procedural

www.SMILerecords.org

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OFFICERS PRESENT: David Dugan, President; Pat Hainley, Treasurer; Eric Norberg, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Grant Huling, Elaine O’Keefe, Bob Burkholder; Jim Friscia, Tracy Fisher, Suzanne Kruse

GUESTS: *[ZOOM coordinates publicly posted, but no guests attended]*

SMILE President David Dugan called the meeting to order via ZOOM at 7:35 p.m., and began by asking for a review of the January 17th Board Meeting minutes. Pat Hainley made a motion that the minutes be approved as submitted. Bob Burkholder seconded the motion, and it then carried unanimously.

First on the agenda was a report on the restoration efforts at SMILE Station after the severe damage caused by a broken water pipe in the main meeting room wall on Thursday, January 18. President Dugan said that contractors are continuing the renovation work in the main meeting room upstairs, while also performing restoration of the floor and some of the walls damaged in the incident. The adjuster from our insurance carrier, State Farm, has been to SMILE Station and evidently has recommended a \$90,000 payment to SMILE; but that is not a final decision by State Farm yet. The downstairs’ complete restoration will begin when the insurance amount is finalized. Our Building Manager, Chris Timberlake, has applied for a \$10,000 storm damage repair grant from the City of Portland.

President Dugan mentioned that, if needed, some loan options are available to help pay for the restoration; we won’t know if we’ll need a loan until we know for sure what State Farm will do. One option is a Small Business Association loan, with attractive terms; but Pat has looked at the considerable paperwork that that option would entail, and said it might be easier to go through a local bank. However, Elaine – who has a background in banking – said the SBA loan interest rates and repayment options are very attractive. Eric commented that his experience is that applying to the SBA does not necessarily mean they will approve a loan; they can decline them. Dugan said that, in any event, we cannot proceed with any loan application until State Farm has acted on our claim.

As concerns upcoming SMILE Events, President Dugan announced that SMILE’s annual (Easter) Egg Hunt will take place again at Oaks Park at 10 a.m. sharp on Saturday, March 30. All members of the Board able to be there should plan on

helping with the preparations and aftermath; set aside 9-noon that morning. How and when the “plastic egg filling” will take place has yet to be determined.

Dugan also announced that the annual SMILE Neighborhood Cleanup will again take place in Westmoreland Park’s south parking lot on Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. SMILE helpers need to be there by 8:30 a.m. for the setup.

Jim Friscia, reporting for our Events Committee, announced that we will have another summer concert series in the neighborhood, and also Sundae in the Park in Sellwood Park. The summer PP&R “Free For All” concert for the neighborhood will be in mid-August; he added that we might skip concerts this year on summer *holiday* weekends. Friscia also reported on last Sunday’s concert at Moreland Presbyterian Church: There were at least 120 attendees in the audience; the concert was excellent, and we raised \$1,600 in this benefit for the Willamette Center in Westmoreland. The funds will be used to buy things the nonprofit center needs, such as a patio awning, art supplies, etc.

SMILE will again be supportive of Southeast’s only official Rose Festival event, the Milk Carton Boat Races at the Westmoreland Park Casting Pond on a Sunday in late June – but President Dugan asked for ideas on where the milk cartons can be stored for the contestants’ use, now that Sellwood Community House will not be available for that as planned, and neither will SMILE Station. Pat Hainley suggested that there might be a secure storage space available at St. Agatha’s that could serve the purpose.

Dugan reported to the Board on his meetings concerning the neighborhood coalition changes coming as part of the new city governmental structure; SMILE, ENA, and the Ardenwald-Johnson Creek Neighborhood Association will be assigned to District 4 in South and Southwest Portland. The number of nonprofit Coalitions providing services and support to the Neighborhood Associations will be reduced to only four, but now those four will experience significant budget cuts, even as their “load” of affiliated neighborhood associations increases. Dugan said there appears to be at least a faint possibility of the new District 4 neighborhood associations located east of the Willamette being able to remain affiliated with Southeast Uplift. Whether that is a real possibility or just a wild notion of some sort has yet to be determined, but we are exploring it with the other two Southeast neighborhood associations involved.

At the end of the agenda, Grant Huling submitted a letter (incorporated into these minutes by reference) drafted by the Transportation Committee for potential acceptance and submission to TriMet by the SMILE Board. Elaine O’Keefe praised the letter and moved that it be accepted and sent to TriMet; Pat Hainley seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

There being no other business offered, or remaining on the agenda, Pat Hainley moved the meeting be adjourned, and Bob Burkholder seconded the motion, which then carried with apparent unanimity, at 8:36 p.m.