

Minutes
SMILE Community Safety Committee Meeting
6:00 PM, 4/17/2024 at the SMILE Station

Attendees:

Grant Huling (GH) (Chair), Patrick Brunett (PB), Lance Goldenberg (LG), Bob Burkholder (BB). Minutes by LG.

Utilizing PDXreporter:

GH supplied detailed information clarifying the process for reporting camping, vehicles, trash, etc. to PDXreporter.org. He stressed the importance of recognizing criteria including restriction of sidewalk access (specifically as it might apply to ADA violations), proximity to schools, impact on livability, aggressive behavior and obvious drug use. GH also mentioned that he is continuing to develop a very positive and effective relationship with Officer William Green who serves as a liaison with the Sellwood neighborhood.

BB explained the success he's observed with removing groups of campers who had moved into the area in/on and around the railroad tracks by 13th Ave. As the area in question is owned by Pacific Western, railroad personnel, after a significant uptick in car break-ins, crime and garbage, had posted signage and then followed up by contacting individual campers and requesting they vacate the property. LG mentioned the campers who had occupied the narrow pedestrian pathway leading from the Springwater Corridor to the Tacoma/Johnson Creek Max station and discussion followed on the sometimes confusing and frustrating process involved in understanding who is responsible for dealing with public property and private property.

Update: After the Community Safety Committee reached out, staff at Portland's Impact Reduction Program have provided a spreadsheet that quantifies on what basis points are assigned when a given campsite is assessed for the "impact" it is having on the surrounding community. Campsites with scores over 50 are swept and campsites in ADA violation are swept regardless of their score. The spreadsheet is attached. Although on May 8th, the Portland City Council passed a camping ban, the PDXreporter.org dashboard remains the primary method by which the City requests residents to complain about campsites.

Self-Defense Workshop:

GH announced that there will be two upcoming events led by Rose City Self-Defense, both open to all: a 90 minute personal safety workshop; and a more intensive three-hour de-escalation workshop. The CSC will be sponsoring these events, which were coordinated by the Safe Blocks Program within Portland's Office of Violence Prevention, with the week of June 17th and June

24th being looked at as possible dates for the first workshop. BB mentioned that June 24 is his birthday so that date would not work for him.

Update: A two-hour Personal Safety and Self-Defense Workshop is now scheduled for Tuesday, June 18th from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the SMILE Station. Rose City Self-Defense has requested RSVPs, so please contact community-safety-chair@sellwood.org to reserve a spot.

Graffiti and Vandalism Abatement:

GH notified the committee that Officer Green has confirmed that the city is creating databases to track and analyze graffiti patterns. PB inquired about the possibility of that information also being shared with the Graffiti Abatement Program. Discussion followed on continuing efforts to find an artist to paint the protective enclosure around the newly replaced trash can at Sellwood Park. GH reminded the committee of the clean-up scheduled for Saturday 12:30-2 at Oaks Bottom Overlook Park, which is maintained by SMILE. At this cleanup the SMILE Stewardship of Natural Amenities Committee will be weeding and improving the landscaping there; the Community Safety Committee will be painting picnic tables, benches, and fence-posts with VandlGuard, a transparent graffiti blocker.

QFC:

GH brought to the committee's attention an email he'd received from Marianne Nelson, a member of the SMILE Housing Solutions Committee, concerning ongoing issues with groups of homeless individuals repeatedly loitering in front of the QFC on SE Milwaukie and sometimes exhibiting threatening behavior. Discussion followed on the best course of action to deal with this problem, with various ideas introduced including communicating with QFC (and/or parent company Kroger) about the possibility of paying for private security. A last-minute suggestion of a possible community boycott of QFC prompted the committee to schedule another meeting as soon as possible to specifically discuss options in more detail.

Update: This QFC Strategy Subcommittee meeting, attended by Grant Huling, Lance Goldenberg, Creed Bruce, and David Stipe, took place May 8th at the Gino's plaza.

Meeting Adjourned.

ATTACHMENT

Risk Assessment Cheat Sheet, dated March 25, 2024. Provided to the SMILE Community Safety Committee by the City of Portland Impact Reduction Program.

Conspicuous Drug Use/Paraphernalia	Score: 0-20. Rating: (0)-none present (1)-no needles/foils, other paraphernalia present; (2)-1 or 2 needles/foils found in the area; (3)-1 or 2 needles/foils and other paraphernalia; (4)-2-5 needles/foils and paraphernalia; (5) 5 or more needles/foils
Impact on Neighborhood Livability (trash/debris)	Score: 0-15. Rating: Based on amount of trash and debris. (0)-no trash; OR debris contained within receptacle; (1)-small amount of trash not contained within receptacle; (2)-Trash and debris scattered, about 2 or so 50 gallon garbage bags full; (3)-no receptacle, moderate amount of trash and debris scattered, about 3-5 50 gallon garbage bags full; (4)-large debris field 10 yd. dumpster full of garbage + hazmat; (5) large debris field 20 yds. or more + hazmat
Proximity to school, park w/ playground, retail/hospitality businesses or private residence	Score: 0-15. Rating: (0)-more than 1,000 feet from school, playground or private residence; (1)-more than 1,000 feet from school, playground or private residence, but on a route to school or playground; (2)-within 1,000 feet of school, playground or private residence; (3)-within 500 ft. of a school, playground or private residence; (4)-bordering school, playground or private residence, or within 100 ft. of a school bus-stop; (5)-on school or park property, attached to an occupied private residential property
Environmental Impact	Score: 0-15. Rating: (0)-no negative impact; (1)-negative impact on the area; (3)-hazmat cleanup required; (5) - designated protected natural area with extensive damage
Restricts ADA Access	Score: 0-10. Rating: Yes or No
On a Posted No Camping/No Trespassing Property	Score: 0-5. Rating: Yes or No
Size of Camp (Structures)	Score: 0-5. Rating: (0)-No structures present; (1)-1 to 2 structures present; (2)-3 to 4 structures present; (3)-5 to 6 structures present; (4)-7 to 8 structures present; (5)-9+ structures present.
Violence/Crime Being Reported	Score: 0-5. Rating: (0)-no reports of crime; (1)-noise disturbances at night; (2)-verbally aggressive to passers-by; (3)-drug traffic, verbal altercations with nearby residents; (4)- threats of physical violence; (5)-physical violence reported of any kind. Based on OPC Reports, PPB, and PP&R Ranger Reports *Please note the violent crime will be addressed by law enforcement
Blocking Public Access (blocking sidewalks, etc.)	Score: 0-5. Rating: Yes or No <i>*This is always a "yes" if it scores on the ADA metric above</i>
Restricts Maintenance Activities	Score: 0-5. Rating: Yes or No