

## Minutes

### SMILE Community Safety Committee Meeting 6/19/24, 6:00-6:45 PM at the SMILE Station

In attendance: Creed Bruce, Patrick Brunette, Grant Huling (Chair), Lance Goldenberg (via Zoom)

Minutes for the April Committee meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Rose City Self-Defense Personal Safety Workshop:** Grant gave a summary of the free Personal Safety and Self-Defense Workshop put on by Rose City Self-Defense at the SMILE Station, which Patrick also attended. He noted that Rose City said they would be glad to come back, and that 6-24 attendees are required. Grant said that this could likely happen in about six months. [*Update: Grant met with Zyannje Lewis, interim manager of Transition Project's Willamette Center homeless shelter, and Rose City will be coming to Willamette Center in the next month or so to give a safety training for Willamette Center staff. An additional event at the SMILE Station can still take place.*]

**QFC PEMO Site Walk:** A planned on-site meeting at QFC, to be attended by a representative of the Portland Environmental Management Office (PEMO), Creed of the Community Safety Committee, Marianne Nelson of the Housing Solutions Committee, and Justin Laney, QFC manager, was delayed due to a recent personnel change at PEMO. [*Update: The site walk took place July 3rd, with Anne Hill, Deputy Director of PEMO, attending on the Office's behalf. Minutes from that meeting are provided as Attachment A.*]

**New Willamette Center Manager:** Zy Lewis, the new interim manager at Transition Project's Willamette Center, reached out to introduce herself to Grant. Grant let the Committee know he would be meeting with her, to establish a line of communication.

**New PPB Neighborhood Response Team Officers, Upcoming Town Hall:** Grant let the Committee know that two new Portland Police Bureau neighborhood liaisons (ak.a. Neighborhood Response Team) reached out to him to introduce themselves. They are Officer Laura Frear ([Laura.Frear@police.portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Laura.Frear@police.portlandoregon.gov)) and Officer Joseph Bernard ([Joseph.Bernard@police.portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Joseph.Bernard@police.portlandoregon.gov)). Community members are welcome to reach out to them directly with questions or concerns. Officer William Green is no longer assigned to Sellwood-Moreland. Officer Bernard is scheduled to visit the SMILE Station on September 4th at 7:30 for a Community Safety Town Hall.

Grant said although he had spoken with each officer he had not yet provided them with a summary of neighborhood issues. He asked Committee members for idea of subjects to bring to their attention. Patrick mentioned that the area around Jake's, Bertie Lou's, and the 7/11 is prone to loitering and drug use. Creed said that property crime is a major concern, and gave the recent example of store windows being shot out. He has encountered intoxicated people on the sidewalk, additionally. PPB has not promised much but has said that this kind of "witness" feedback can affect their patrols in the area.

**SMBA Collaboration:** A common refrain within the Committee has been that it would be fruitful to connect and collaborate with the Sellwood-Moreland Business Alliance (SMBA). Patrick, who owns a local business, offered to reach out to SMBA President Tom Brown. Specifically, he will inform Tom of the opportunity for PEMO to visit stores and areas of concern to SMBA (potentially the Bertie Lou's area mentioned above) for a site walk, as PEMO was scheduled to do for QFC. He will also let Tom know of the opportunity for a Rose City Self-Defense Workshop visit serving SMBA members.

**Graffiti Cleanup:** Grant let the group know that on June 23rd, he, Mike Dodge, and others were scheduled to paint over graffiti in the neighborhood. [*Update: This took place at Sellwood Waterfront Park and was a great success, with volunteers from the Multnomah Neighborhood Association joining in. Contact [community-safety-chair@sellwood.org](mailto:community-safety-chair@sellwood.org) if you would like to be contacted ahead of future events.*]

*Draft*

*Minutes approval to be voted on by attendees of the next SMILE Community Safety Committee Meeting, occurring August 21st, 2024 from 6:00 to 7:00 PM at the SMILE Station.*

**ATTACHMENT**

**PEMO-QFC-SMILE Site Walk Minutes (7/3/24)**

## Meeting Notes

On **July 3, 2024** Creed Bruce of the **SMILE Safety Committee** arranged a meeting between the **QFC** store manager Justin Laney, Marianne Nelson of **SMILE Housing Solutions Committee** and Anne Hill, Deputy Director of The **Public Environment Management Office**. (PEMO was established in May 2022 to marshal City programs and services into a collaborative team to expedite the cleaning of unsafe and unsanitary conditions across the public realm, and to establish preventative and stabilizing measures to the further activate public spaces. Anchored in neighborhood business districts, PEMO convenes district coalitions, neighborhood and business association leadership, business owners along with key community members and organizations in bi-monthly Problem Solver meetings. <https://www.portland.gov/pemo/aboutpemo>)

The QFC at 6411 SE Milwaukie Ave is a hotspot for drugs and homeless in the SMILE area. We discussed what could be done to eliminate some of the problems and make customers more comfortable shopping there. Some of the items discussed were:

- 1) *Bathroom access*. Justin said their bathrooms were recently closed for extensive repairs and during that time there were a lot fewer problem. He thought their bathroom had to be public. Anne said it can be restricted to customers, but many of the problem people do buy things.
- 2) *Bottle Drop*. Justin said things were much better now with the new system, but they still had to accept up to 24 items. Could they get on bag drop only?
- 3) *Good Neighbor Agreements*. Justin thought that their shoplifting went up 30% when the Willamette Center shelter reopened. Anne said there should be a Good Neighbor Agreement with the TPI shelter. Justin thought QFC had one with SMILE. Marianne will try to find out if SMILE, which has cooperated with both, has any agreements.
- 4) *North side of building*. Justin said this is a problem area. Ann said if QFC pruned the trees, the city could light up the trees. QFC could also put in more lighting. The idea of a mural came up. Anne explained how the city works with Portland Street Art Alliance. Grants can be written to get the funding. Justin thought QFC would be open to that. Make the area more attractive and show that it is being watched and cared for.
- 5) *Loitering*. The front of the building at the corner across from ACE is often a gathering place, because one particular man sits there on a regular basis selling Street Roots. Anne explained that the area under the overhang belongs to QFC and they can ask people to move. One idea was to put a big permanent planter there no one could hang out between the street and the QFC entrance. Some customers will not come in the front way because of the homeless/panhandlers there.

Anne will follow up with information for all of us. SMILE will try to have someone regularly attend the Problem Solver meetings with Multnomah Village and Hillsdale. Our neighborhoods are similar, and we now will be in the same city council district with the same council representatives, so could have a collective voice.

Submitted by Marianne Nelson