

**SMILE Board Meeting Minutes**  
**August 21, 2024**  
**at SMILE Station**

Main Website

<http://www.SellwoodMoreland.org> <<>> <http://www.SMILERecords.org>

Procedural

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** President David Dugan; Pat Hainley, Treasurer;

Eric Norberg, Secretary

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Grant Huling [via ZOOM], Bob Burkholder,

Jim Friscia, Elaine O’Keefe, Tracy Fisher, Suzanne Kruse [via ZOOM]

**GUESTS:** Bob and Barbara from the Audubon Society

President David Dugan called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m., and since we had two guests, we began with introductions around the room of those present. The minutes of the July 17 Board Meeting were presented; Pat Hainley moved the minutes be accepted as presented, and Tracy Fisher seconded the motion, which appeared to carry without objection.

Although they had not requested in advance to be on the agenda, two representatives from the Audubon Society – identified as Bob and Barbara, were present to discuss Ross Island – “an amazing place” – with considerable history in Portland. Bob said the society is starting a campaign to seek a donation by Dr. Robert Pamplin of some or all of his remaining holdings on the island to Portland or to Metro, after his having previously donated part of it to PP&R in 2007. Bob said the society is troubled by campers on the island, and on derelict boats near it; he cited the recent wildfire on the island, which might have been human-caused. He said members of the society are meeting with politicians to try to advance this campaign. Eric Norberg observed that the Brooklyn neighborhood has for years claimed the Ross Island complex as part of its neighborhood – which would place the island in the new city-designated voting District 3. The pair did not request any action by SMILE at this meeting, and departed soon after they finished.

Returning to the agenda, Jim Friscia on behalf of the Events Committee, reported that our one “Free For All” PP&R-provided concert this year was rained out by the August 17 thunderstorms, but would be made up by PP&R (although with a different act performing) on Sunday, September 1, 6-8 p.m., in Sellwood Park. The last scheduled weekly summer concert provided by SMILE this summer will be Saturday, August 24th.

The major event still coming up on Sunday, October 6 – our “candidates forum” of those running for the three District 4 seats on the new Portland City Council – is expected to draw quite a crowd, and our initial plan to hold it at SMILE Station seems inadequate to the expected turnout. We have been in discussion with Sellwood Community House about holding it there that afternoon – they have approved doing so, so President Dugan said “the decision has been made” to hold it there. The plan is to have the candidate presentations lead off the afternoon in the upstairs gymnasium at SCH, and then allow the candidates individual meetings with voters in other rooms there after that.

Frischia concluded his report by reporting that Sundae in the Park this year on August 4th was a success, and that we have ideas on how to make it even better next year.

Elaine O’Keefe addressed the need Friscia has been underlining lately of needing more volunteers to help advance SMILE events and projects. She said that if we want more community volunteers, we need to create a “culture of volunteerism”, as Sellwood Community House has. President Dugan agreed that we need to do more of that. Elaine pointed out that we actually **do** have many volunteers – specifically the dedicated members of our committees: “We should recognize the volunteers we do have.” Jim Friscia added that SMILE can also recognize volunteers in and for the community, not just those who volunteer for SMILE. At one time SMILE bestowed such an award to recognize residents in the community who regularly went beyond what is expected.

Elaine also brought up an unrelated concern she herself witnessed at one of our Saturday evening SMILE Summer Concerts: A man was repeatedly filming a specific woman who was attending, which she took as harassment and turned to Eliane for help with. President Dugan pointed out that, under law, people can film or photograph what takes place in a public space, but Elaine said that nonetheless we should find a legal way to assist those who are targeted in a menacing or harassing way at a SMILE event. The woman took what the man was doing as harassing her – and indeed it may have been, because once the man realized the woman was discussing the matter with Elaine, he turned and ran off. Perhaps we need to determine exactly what legally we can do if and when harassment appears to be occurring towards one or more attendees of our events.

Bob Burkholder next presented on the subject of emergency preparedness. He has updated the main SMILE website on the subject, and will put together an emergency preparedness program for a future SMILE General Meeting. Our NET Team is involved in the October 30th citywide drill. Bob has just finished an emergency preparedness manual for Sellwood Community House; Elaine asked if he would consider conducting an emergency preparedness class at SMILE; he is willing, and will discuss doing so with the NET Team. Bob remarked that the dynamics of our neighborhood have changed quite a bit in the recent past – residents of Sellwood-Westmoreland are now 45% renters – among which there is a lot of turnover, making his former neighborhood seminars on emergency preparedness less likely to be of lasting value here. After some discussion, President Dugan said he will obtain three First Aid Kits for upstairs and downstairs at SMILE Station and Oaks Pioneer Church, and an AED for SMILE Station.

The final agenda item was a brief update to the Board on our ongoing negotiations with PP&R, for which President Dugan declared a brief Executive Session -- in which visitors are cleared from the room; and public minutes, by law, are not taken – at 9:07 p.m.

----- **EXECUTIVE SESSION** -----

The Executive Session was ended at 9:09 p.m., and Pat Hainley made a motion that the meeting be adjourned; Bob Burkholder seconded the motion – and the motion carried with evident unanimity at 9:09 p.m.