

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2024
at SMILE Station

Main Website

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

Procedural

OFFICERS PRESENT: President David Dugan [via ZOOM]; Pat Hainley, Treasurer;
Eric Norberg, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jason Sturgill, Grant Huling, Bob Burkholder,
Jim Friscia, Zack Duffly [via ZOOM], Tracy Fisher, Suzanne Kruse

GUESTS: (none)

With SMILE President David Dugan driving towards Portland from Eastern Oregon, and finding himself in a traffic jam on the highway, Dugan planned to connect with the Board meeting on his phone via ZOOM, but did not appear at 7:30. Pat Hainley, an officer of SMILE called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m., and – after a review of the June Board Meeting minutes – Bob Burkholder moved the minutes be approved as submitted, and Jason Sturgill seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously.

Before David was able to get a signal good enough to connect, Suzanne Kruse discussed work she had done in early preparation for the planned SMILE Candidates Forum in October, and she went over the arrangements which are still needed. Pat Hainley commented that it would be good to have a table for the Board at “Sundae in the Park” on August 4th, to promote the Candidates Forum to the crowd which will attend.

David Dugan was finally able to get a stable connection to the meeting on ZOOM from his phone, and thanked Pat for having begun the meeting, and took it over from there. After some recap to bring him up to speed on the matters already addressed, David asked Grant Huling for an update from the SMILE Crime Prevention Committee – informally called the Community Safety Committee, pending any change in the SMILE Bylaws naming this standing committee. Grant suggested the September 4th General Meeting as a potential venue for another “Community Safety Town Hall”. Dugan was receptive to the idea. Huling also suggested the Board have a social get-together sometime; David said that sometime in December might work for that.

David suggested that the Board Members consult others in the neighborhood about topics they’d like to see featured in future SMILE General Meetings. He also commented that he would like to see a return to having reports from SMILE committees as a regular General Meeting feature. A general discussion by Board Members on related topics followed.

Reporting for the new SMILE Events Committee, Jim Friscia said that we’d had a good first free community concert of the summer, last Saturday night in Westmoreland; he’d managed to arrange a “great fill-in act” (Mary Flower and Adam Scramstad) for the

scheduled J.T. Wise Band, which had to cancel at the last minute due to illness. He added that we pulled in \$231 through the sale of soft drinks and beer at the concert – it was the first time we had any such concessions for sale at a SMILE concert, and he is now looking into adding snacks and food items to this fundraiser to assist in covering costs for the free concert series.

Frischia also thanked the Board Members who had helped out at the setup and teardown of the concert last Saturday, and who sat at the SMILE table – but, he said, we will have a serious problem if we don't get more volunteers, "because it takes people to make this work, and very few are signed up for future concerts".

Considerable discussion followed. President Dugan said that we do need to create a volunteer base, and we should have a signup system, and then should promote signing up. He added that Board Members need to look for such volunteers from among their acquaintances. Pat Hainley suggested bringing up the need for volunteers at the concerts themselves. It was decided that we'll post the need on our various communications channels. David said he would help out at the July 27th concert.

Grant Huling, who is also the Chair of the SMILE Transportation Committee, reported that the committee "has that long-discussed potential Reedway pedestrian and bicycle overcrossing on its radar." This would provide access over McLoughlin Boulevard and the Brooklyn Railroad Yard to Reedway at S.E. 28th, connecting north Westmoreland to the Reed College campus, the Rhododendron Garden, and Eastmoreland and the Reed neighborhood, and possibly to a future MAX station. It would be the only pedestrian and bike access between the two sides of the railroad right-of-way between Holgate and Bybee Boulevards, which is a considerable distance.

Two such overcrossings have been built and put into service recently – in Brooklyn south of Powell, and in the Hosford-Abernethy neighborhood north of Powell – and the need is clear in our neighborhood. SMILE, Eastmoreland, the Reed neighborhood, and even Reed College have long been on record as favoring such access, and in favor of a new MAX station accessible from the overcrossing as well.

There being no other business on the agenda, or brought up from the floor, Pat Hainley moved the meeting be adjourned, and Suzanne Kruse seconded the motion – which carried with evident unanimity at 8:35 p.m.