

## **SMILE General Meeting minutes**

**Wednesday, June 5, 2024**

**SMILE Station**

Main Website

Procedural

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

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** David Dugan, President; Elizabeth Milner, Vice President; Pat Hainley, Treasurer; Eric Norberg, Secretary

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Zack Duffly, Elaine O'Keefe, Tracy Fisher, Grant Huling, Suzanne Kruse, Jim Friscia, Jason Sturgill

**SMILE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** David & Kelley Stipe (*and unrecorded others attending virtually, via ZOOM*)

**GUESTS:** Matt Roberson, Rebekah Ringbom, Berlin Hefly, Wenderleigh White, Esmé Danriise

The meeting was called to order by SMILE President David Dugan at 7:36 p.m. He led self-introductions of everyone present, around the room – and, determining that a quorum had not yet been attained, he postponed the approval of minutes until a quorum was present. Vice President Elizabeth Milner announced that she had put us in line for an Advantis Credit Union grant to help us fund our summertime community events schedule, and now seeks daily online votes for us on the Advantis online presence via a QR Code through June 17, to help put us over the top to receive the grant.

President Dugan then went over the list of the June upcoming SMILE events: The Summer Solstice parade in Sellwood on June 15, and the Milk Carton Boat Races at Westmoreland Park's Casting Pond on June 23 – that's the final official event of the 2024 Portland Rose Festival, and it occurs in our neighborhood. Looking ahead he mentioned Sundae in the Park at Sellwood Park on Sunday, August 4. We also have upcoming Saturday summer free concerts with local performers on July 13, 20, and 27, and August 10, 17, and 24 – all of which are to be held on the parking lot behind the Windermere building on S.E. Bybee Boulevard at 15th Avenue, except the August 17 concert – a PP&R "Free For All" concert, which will take place in Sellwood Park. Jim Friscia, who leads the Events Committee and has been putting together the SMILE summer concerts for years, discussed this year's concerts and the variety of local artists involved. The July concerts start at 7 p.m. and the August concerts start at 6:30 p.m. Elizabeth Milner discussed plans for Sundae in the Park, which once again this year will be a SMILE event (recently it has been led by Sellwood Community House).

President Dugan announced that despite the near-unanimous votes of the four Southeast neighborhoods which had been scheduled to leave Southeast Uplift's purview to be shifted to a Southwest coalition to stay with Southeast Uplift, and despite the city having an established and published process to accomplish this which all four involved neighborhoods had successfully completed, the city has now decided to deny it.

Apparently there is no way to appeal this decision, despite the fact that the choice of Coalition to be represented by has no relationship at all to the arbitrary assignment of the four neighborhoods to the west-side District 4 for voting for City Council candidates, which is based on population proportions. Had this move been approved, all four remaining Coalitions would have received similar funding amounts, thus increasing the equity of the city's new funding model. That fact was disregarded as well. The four

neighborhoods – SMILE, ENA, Reed, and the Portland portion of Ardenwald – are all quite disappointed by this arbitrary city decision.

Dugan determined that, with the additional participation of SMILE members on the ZOOM part of this meeting's attendance, the minimum quorum had been attained, and he requested that the May General Meeting minutes that were distributed at the door and available online at "SMILerecords.org" be reviewed for amendment and approval. No amendments were offered; Pat Hainley moved the minutes be approved as submitted, and Elaine O'Keefe seconded the motion, which was approved by SMILE members in the room and participating via ZOOM, with one abstention and no negative votes, so the minutes were declared approved as submitted.

Grant Huling arose, as Chair of the SMILE Transportation Committee, to give an overview of PBOT's Traffic Safety Assessment of S.E. 13th from Tenino to Knapp. The new assessment started with a SMILE petition, and SMILE's elevated traffic concerns about S.E. 13th. The assessment is underway, and has been expanded to S.E. 17th Avenue near Linn Street. A second ticket has been opened for S.E. Milwaukie Avenue in north Westmoreland, where S.E. Milwaukie Avenue is accessed from McLoughlin Boulevard, near the Willamette Center owned by Multnomah County, and operated in service to homeless individuals by Transition Projects. Of concern is limited bike and sidewalk access in the vicinity.

Huling returned to the matter of the chronic problem of cut-through traffic in Sellwood, by motorists seeking to circumvent the Tacoma Street rush hour traffic backup to and from the Sellwood Bridge, resulting in much cut-through traffic on parallel residential streets. The city has added speed bumps to address this problem, but it is still an issue. The long-planned Phase II study is needed to seek solutions for this chronic problem. S.E. 17th was mentioned as a concern from speeding motorists, and options were discussed.

Another concern mentioned by a resident [see letter published this month in THE BEE] is the unofficial street crossing at Bybee Boulevard and 14th Avenue in Westmoreland, seen as a risk to Llewellyn students crossing there despite being directed by signage to use the marked crossing at S.E. 15th Avenue instead. Grant announced that improvements to that intersection are described by PBOT as imminent, but just when is unclear.

Then, in his other role as Chair of the SMILE Crime Prevention Committee -- unofficially referred to as the "Community Safety Committee" – Huling brought up for discussion SMILE participation in the "Safe Blocks" program. He also said that RSVPs are needed for the upcoming "Safety and Self-Defense Workshop" SMILE is co-sponsoring on Tuesday, June 18, 7-9 p.m., at SMILE Station.

At Sellwood Riverfront Park, there has become an issue with picnickers creating and using firepits on the beach beside the river. We are uncertain whether complaints about this should be directed to Portland Parks and Recreation, or to the State of Oregon.

Meeting guest Matt Roberson announced that Certified Health Workers are needed to provide help to get people who lack it into housing.

There being no other business on the agenda or offered from the floor, Pat Hainley made a motion of adjournment, which was seconded by Jason Sturgill – and which then carried unanimously at 9:01 p.m.