

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2024
at SMILE Station

Main Website

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

Procedural

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Grant Huling, Tracy Fisher, Jim Friscia, Elaine
O’Keefe, Bob Burkholder, Jason Sturgill

GUESTS: Vikki DeGaa and two colleagues

President David Dugan called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m., and observed that a quorum had been attained. The minutes of the September 18, 2024, Board Meeting were then reviewed; Elaine O’Keefe made a motion that they be approved as submitted, and Pat Hainley seconded the motion, which then carried unanimously.

President Dugan turned to the “District 4 Candidates Forum” which SMILE organized, and which took place at the Sellwood Community House, on Sunday, October 6th, from 1 to 4 p.m. This event replaced the regular monthly SMILE General Meeting. The move to Sellwood Community House was prompted by the expectation of a large crowd, and the turnout indeed was such that it would have overwhelmed SMILE Station.

The forum began at 1 p.m. with a series of brief candidates’ presentations in the upstairs gymnasium, with David as emcee, and Suzanne Kruse as the timer to make sure the presentations did not exceed each speaker’s allotted time. After all the candidates had presented in this manner, then the attendees were given plenty of opportunity to mingle with the candidates and speak individually with them.

Almost all the candidates vying for one of the three seats assigned to the new City Council District 4 showed up in response to our invitation – sixteen of them appeared; one more who RSVP’d did not, but may have been found himself blocked by streets closed for the Portland Marathon, and wound up lost. The streets opened at 2 p.m.

All the candidates were surprised and pleased by the exceptional turnout, and President Dugan agreed with Elaine O’Keefe that this SMILE-sponsored forum format should be considered for future city elections. David Dugan and Elaine O’Keefe led our planning for the forum, and David thanked all SMILE Board Members who stepped up to help put it on. He also thanked the Sellwood Community House for providing the facilities.

Next, Grant Huling introduced Vikki DeGaa and two others representing a group seeking to find space for one or more “community plazas” in Sellwood and Westmoreland, where residents can gather – two such possible spots have been identified so far, one in each half of the neighborhood -- they are only tentative now.

In Westmoreland, one would be on the one-way section of Claybourne Street between S.E. 17th and 16th – with the plan, specifically, to close Claybourne westbound at 17th, up to (but not including) the entrance to the parking lot at Moreland Vision Source. In Sellwood, one idea would be to close Tenino Street from S.E. 13th extending to, but not including, the north driveway at SMILE Station. Pat Hainley emphasized the need to get feedback from residents and businesses on these blocks, and nearby, before deciding on these locations. The project will continue with the intention of identifying other locations to add to the choices where these small public plazas could be.

Grant Huling also reported on the trash can project at the Oaks Bottom Overlook pocket park, on S.E. 13th just south of Bybee Boulevard. The idea there is to replace the large concrete trash barrel, which must be emptied while it stands in place, with a liftable metal trash can which would be locked down with a padlock and steel cable. Grant has priced such a trash can at \$655, the cable at \$10, a sturdy combination padlock at \$30, a painting by artist Leah Gamour at \$1,200, with a \$200 design fee already paid; and he estimated cost of removing the concrete trash barrel at \$100. The project proposal has not yet been approved; there was discussion by the Board about details of the project.

We are planning to get involved in SMBA’s “Decemberville” business promotion on December 7th; Bob Burkholder and Tracy Fisher are game for preparing breakfast for visitors again this year. Jim Friscia suggested some more SMILE activities could be part of the day at SMILE Station; Elaine O’Keefe suggested SMILE have giveaway items available. President Dugan appointed several interested Board Members to plan it.

Elaine O’Keefe observed that we have discussed a bylaws revision for SMILE for several years – do we want to proceed with some key revisions? Do we feel we need to change some of our procedures? Dugan said we need a person to lead the effort if we want to undertake this now. Elaine said she is willing to moderate the process of accepting suggestions for revisions from members of the Board.

David Dugan reported briefly that our negotiations with the city for a new management agreement for our operation of the Oaks Pioneer Church, which is on Portland Public Parks land, seem to be moving towards completion – which would continue SMILE as administrator for the church, which SMILE originally obtained from a site in Milwaukie 60 years ago. It’s listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

David also said we are getting busy on our budgeting process for the October 2024 – September 2025 fiscal year. Committees seeking budget allocations should send their requests to David, for the consideration of the SMILE Finance Committee.

Jason Sturgill remarked that he is still interested in our having a Board social event over the Holidays. David said he would work with him in gaining a consensus on the best date to include the most Board Members for such a gathering.

There being no further items on the agenda or offered from the floor, Pat Hainley moved the meeting be adjourned, and Bob Burkholder seconded the motion; the motion carried with evident unanimity at 9:00 p.m. sharp.