

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes
November 20, 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, Elaine O’Keefe,
Jason Sturgill; Jim Friscia *[via ZOOM]*

GUESTS: [none]

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 October 16, 2024, Board Meeting were then reviewed; Pat Hainley made a motion that they be approved as submitted, and Tracy Fisher seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

President Dugan next invited Elaine O’Keefe to lead a discussion of our planning for our active participation in the SMBA “Decemberville” merchant promotion on Saturday, December 7, this year. Our participation will start with a free pancake breakfast for all comers at SMILE Station, with sausages, coffee, from 10 a.m. until noon. Volunteers are needed to help throughout the day, starting at about 9:30 a.m., all the way until around at least 3:30 p.m. in the afternoon, after the end of the fifth and final musical entertainment act. Jim Friscia said he expected to be on hand from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. President Dugan said he would be there in the afternoon, and hopefully a bit in the morning also. Other Board Members will participate at various times, including the two intimately involved in preparing and serving the breakfast. There was discussion of the SMILE blanket drive for Transition Projects’ Willamette Center in Westmoreland – perhaps we can coordinate that drive with a similar drive for Willamette Center planned at Sellwood Community House. Since we have announced a raffle as part of that day (the prizes were brought to this meeting), we next needed to do some planning for that. It’s announced as “no purchase necessary to win”, to avoid having to get a Oregon State Lottery Commission license for it, and we’ll secure a roll of tickets to give away to those who come by. We will ask them to put their name, and a contact number or email address, on it when they turn it in for the drawing -- and we will contact the owner of drawn tickets about claiming their prize. If they did not identify themselves on the ticket, they’ll have to be present at the drawing, with the matching ticket number, in order to win.

Next there was a discussion of possible other ways for SMILE to support the Multnomah-County-owned, and Transition-Projects-run Willamette Center – a discussion apparently prompted a proposed “newsletter” item submitted by a well-meaning SMILE member, who advocates that SMILE have a dedicated financial account to accept donations for this homeless shelter. At the start, Jim Friscia told the Board

that our ad-hoc Housing Solutions Committee is currently dormant and leaderless, necessitating that this discussion go straight to the Board. A spirited discussion followed in which points were made that if we engage in active fund-raising for other organizations it dilutes any effort to fundraise for SMILE; and that such a SMILE project would imply a unique status of SMILE approval for the recipient organization, which may not be reflected unanimously throughout the community, thus damaging our ability to advocate for ALL who live and work in our neighborhood – there seems to be a diversity of views about the target organization. In the end the Board agreed with focusing just on the blanket drive for Willamette Center planned for December 7th as part of “Decemberville”, and put off until at least January any further decisions about the rest of the proposal.

Next, Grant Huling reported on the progress of the trash can project he’s been helming for the Oaks Bottom Overlook pocket park, on S.E. 13th just south of Bybee Boulevard. Although the replacement of the current trash can with a sturdy and well-anchored steel receptacle is progressing better than expected, there is a new problem. A homeless person with an axe who publicly admitted the vandalism has caused severe damage to the picnic tables there; President Dugan said that although the tables may be repairable, their built-in seats have been completely destroyed and will have to be replaced. Pat Hainley suggested that SMILE might have past-President John Fyre – who is a blacksmith/ironworker, as well as being very experienced in working with wood, be asked to go examine the damage and make recommendations for repair or replacement.

The final item for discussion tonight dealt with the planned update of the SMILE bylaws – one purpose of which would be to reexamine the current two-consecutive-year term limit restriction on the President, who is also CEO for the businesses we run in renting both the Oaks Pioneer Church and SMILE Station. Short term limits may potentially harm our rental revenue with untimely changes in the volunteer SMILE Board leadership at critical times.

Elaine O’Keefe has been collecting Board comments on that and other possible updates to our bylaws, and they were all discussed in turn. No decisions were made, but there was much discussion, and it appears there is as yet no firm consensus on some of the alternatives proposed for various parts of the bylaws. Elaine and David pointed out, however, that there is no need to reach such consensus tonight. There is, in our bylaws, a strict and defined multi-month process for making such changes, and President Dugan wants a public airing, for comments, of the proposed changes at our February General Meeting (the January 1 meeting is cancelled due to the New Year’s Day holiday) – with a Board vote, after considering public suggestions, to finalize the planned changes in March. That way, the results can be announced at the April General Meeting, at which meeting we are also required to announce our annual election at the May General Meeting, and invite candidates from the SMILE membership for all open positions.

With that, Pat Hainley moved the meeting be adjourned, Tracy Fisher seconded the motion, and the subsequent vote of approval was appeared unanimous, at 9:28 p.m.