

SMILE General Meeting minutes

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

SMILE Station

Main Website

Procedural

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

OFFICERS PRESENT: David Dugan, President [via ZOOM]; Elizabeth Milner, Vice President; Eric Norberg, Secretary

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

SMILE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Tom Brown, Stacy Coyle, Tim Venzke, Ed Nunez, Ben Trimm, Bill Place, Beth Kracum, S. Safford; *and, via ZOOM:* Rebecca, Elaine P., Stan and Brenda Scrutton, Polly Jackson, Heather Thompson, Robinette, and Lori and Lisa

GUESTS: Tracie Heidt, Tuyen Ta, and Brian Mead, for the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services [sewer services]

The meeting was called to order by SMILE Vice President Elizabeth Milner at 7:33 p.m. She asked those present to review the two sets of minutes from the General Meetings of September 4 and November 6 (there was no General Meeting in October due to the SMILE-sponsored City Council Candidates for District 4 election forum on October 6th). After the review, Ed Nunez moved that both sets of minutes be approved as presented, and Bob Burkholder seconded the motion. In the subsequent vote, both sets of minutes were approved unanimously.

President Dugan, via ZOOM, then introduced the featured speakers for this meeting – Tracie Heidt, Tuyen Ta, and Brian Mead, representing the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, present to bring an update on the lengthy Sellwood Sewer Project to the neighborhood. This project, to upgrade and/or repair the sewer system, began in April of this year, and is expected to last for 18 months. Tracie took the lead and showed maps and diagrams. The work on S.E. 13th Avenue in Sellwood will run from this coming January through May, and will take place in two-to-three-block increments from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday (except 7 a.m. through 6 p.m. south of Spokane Street). It will take two to three weeks per section to complete the work. The contractor will try to accommodate residents on the block during work hours as best they can; and outside of work hours, steel plates will keep the street as open as possible. Most of the work is in Sellwood; there will be isolated repairs in north Westmoreland as well.

There was a question from attendees about the costs they might incur as part of this project. Heidt said that if you have a nonconforming sewer connection (one shared with a neighbor, or which runs under another property than yours, you will have the cost of installing a correct sewer connection to the street entirely on your own property – and you might want to explore having an independent contractor do the work before this

project reaches you, since that may be cheaper than having the city do this work as part of the project on your street, and billing you for it. But, you will *not* be charged for the repaving of the street in front of your house after the project is completed on your block. In answer to a question Heidt said that the temporary paving done as the project moves down the street will be redone to a higher standard at the end of the project.

There was considerable Q and A concerning specific details of the project, after which this presentation was completed.

The other main item on tonight's agenda concerned SMILE's involvement in the upcoming SMBA seasonal business promotion, "Decemberville". SMILE is again participating to support our local merchants, and to add to the fun and excitement of the one-day celebration – starting with a free pancake, sausage, and coffee or juice breakfast for all comers, 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, December 7. ("Decemberville" runs all day until after 4 p.m. in both Sellwood and Westmoreland).

After SMILE's breakfast ends, at noon, there will follow live music at SMILE Station, with each local performer or group occupying just one half hour; those performances should end by 3 p.m. There will also be a free raffle and a blanket drive for the Willamette Center shelter in Westmoreland, and activities for kids.

Sellwood Community House will have events of its own; and there will be a free walking map of events available at various locations in the neighborhood. "Decemberville" will conclude with a Community Holiday Sing-Along at Oaks Pioneer Church from 5 to 6 p.m. on December 7th.

There being no other business on the agenda or offered from the floor, David Dugan [via ZOOM] moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Bob Burkholder seconded the motion – which carried with evident unanimity at 8:14 p.m.