

# **SMILE General Meeting minutes**

**Wednesday, March 5, 2025**

**SMILE Station**

Main Website

Procedural

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

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Elaine O'Keefe, Tracy Fisher [*via ZOOM*]; Grant Huling, Jason Sturgill; Bob Burkholder; Suzanne Kruse; Jim Friscia

**SMILE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Vikki DeGaa, Paul Scott Kelly, Carla Pastore, Gaylen Beatty, Shomace Fallah, Tina Osterink, Ameena Lacey, Linda Bickham, Bryce Butler, Liz Waters, Sherry Holman, Kelly Luzanta, Diane Linn, Josh Springer, Ben Trimm, Mary Eastwood, Jules McNicholas, Kari Kohrmann, Beth Kracum, Amanda Feaver, T. B. Hydes, Suzie Roane, Nancy Gilbeartz, Ruth Kaser, Lance Greenberg, Ann Scott, Adrian and Alana Brown, Rose Hobson, K. J. Sprechter, David Montero, Nicole Quinn; *and, via ZOOM:* Stan and Brenda Scrutton, and Mark Griswold Wilson

**GUESTS:** Connie Shipley

The February SMILE General Meeting was called to order by SMILE Vice President Elizabeth Milner at 7:34 p.m., with SMILE President David Dugan also present via ZOOM, and operating the meeting's PowrePoint slides from his remote computer. Milner asked all those present to introduce themselves around the room, and via ZOOM – and then asked attendees to review the minutes of the last SMILE General Meeting on February 5th, 2025. Scott Kelly asked for a minor revision of the minutes' account of a question he posed in that meeting. After the review, David Huling moved that the minutes be approved as amended, and Bob Burkholder seconded the motion. In the subsequent vote, the motion carried without objection or abstention.

Board Member Elaine O'Keefe arose to explain SMILE's lengthy Bylaws revision process, which culminated at the February General Meeting with a public review of the various changes recommended by the Board at its December Board Meeting, and the solicitation of public comments, suggestions, or possible revisions. None being offered, the Board approved the final version of the proposed Bylaws updates at its February Board Meeting, and O'Keefe presented them, with their rationales, while specifics appeared on slides on the screen behind her. At the end there were a couple of questions, which she answered. Then Bob Burkholder made a motion that all of the revisions to the SMILE Bylaws recommended by the Board be approved; Suzanne Kruse seconded the motion; and the motion carried with 39 yes votes, and no nays or abstentions. It was unanimous approval.

Next followed the featured speaker of the evening – Metro's Gaylen Beatty, who is also a SMILE resident, and is the founder of the region's Backyard Habitat Program. She

presented on, “Learning about native plants and attracting birds, bees, butterflies, and other friendly critters”. She offered many slides with photos and information, and shared gardening tips and techniques for those living in the Portland Urban Area. A Considerable number of questions and answers followed, before Beatty eventually concluded her presentation.

Then Grant Huling, Chair of the SMILE Transportation Committee, arose to acquaint those present with the effort by some residents in the neighborhood to establish a second “street plaza” – a half block of street in the business district officially closed and used for informal gatherings. Local resident Mark Lakeman, the creator of the original “Sharre-It Square”, stood to explain that the first such plaza has been successful in Sellwood, on the west side of 13th on S.E. Spokane Street, at Gino’s, for quite some time. The second, after much discussion involving nearby businesses, is now being proposed for the west side of S.E. Milwaukie Avenue on Claybourne Street in Westmoreland. That block is “one way, east only” at present, and the proposed closure would be from Milwaukie Avenue westward only half a block, to the driveway from the small strip mall that is on the north corner. The remainder of the block would have to be changed to allow two-way traffic.

However, the first step in the process will simply be painting a street mural on the street pavement at the proposed plaza location, before seeking more public input. That, now, is leading to a public contest seeking the mural design to be painted on the street. The deadline for submissions in the contest is April 15th. There was considerable discussion and Q and A after the presentation. Details of the plaza concept and the contest are currently publicly posted online – <https://sellwood.org/2025/03/04/clayborne-st-plaza-project/>

Connie Shipley, Royal Rosarian in charge of the Milk Carton Boat Races at the Westmoreland Park Casting Pond, was present at this meeting – so she was invited to speak, and she announced the date and details for the races this summer. The Milk Carton Boat Races is the only official event in Inner Southeast Portland of the annual, citywide Portland Rose Festival.

There being no other business on the agenda or offered from the floor, Vice President Elizabeth Milner announced the meeting as “adjourned” at 8:58 p.m.

This meeting featured an experiment – evidently, a successful one – in motivating attendance by offering refreshments; and SMILE officially thanked the participating business donors – The Fates Bread and Bottle Company, and Sebastiano’s -- for their many tasty and refreshing contributions to the meeting.