

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2025
at SMILE Station

Main Website

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Procedural

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Grant Huling, Tracy Fisher, Elaine O’Keefe, Jim Friscia, Suzanne Kruse, Bob Burkholder, Zack Duffly [*via ZOOM*]

GUESTS: Diane Linn [*via ZOOM*], Scott Kelly

President David Dugan called the meeting to order via ZOOM at 7:33 p.m., and began by reading a letter [incorporated into these minutes by reference] which was proposed by the Transportation Committee for SMILE Board endorsement, in support of a potential grant from the METRO Regional Travel Options Grant Committee to nonprofit Oaks Amusement Park, to assist in the installation of high-quality bicycle adaptations there. With a quorum of the Board present, Elaine O’Keefe moved that SMILE adopt and send the letter; Jim Friscia seconded the motion; and the motion was unanimously passed.

The next item on the agenda was the review and acceptance of the minutes of our January and February Board Meetings. Elaine O’Keefe moved the January 2025 minutes be adopted as presented; Suzanne Kruse seconded; the motion carried with one abstention. Pat Hainley next moved the February 2025 minutes be adopted as presented; Tracy Fisher seconded the motion; and that motion carried with two abstentions.

Then Elaine O’Keefe brought up the need for the SMILE Standing Election Committee to be formed to proceed with the necessary steps leading to our May 7 annual Board Election at our May General Meeting. We must announce the election at the April General Meeting, and the committee needs to be in place before that. She went on to outline the many steps we are required to take between now and the May General Election. Suzanne Kruse indicated that she would know in a couple of days if she could participate in the committee [subsequently, she determined that she could; Zack Duffly joined the committee as the other required Board Member, and Vikki DeGaa joined the committee as the required non-Board member]. Bob Burkholder announced that he is not running for re-election to the Board; Eric and Pat confirmed they are running for re-election as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. There followed a general discussion of election logistics and contingencies. It is unclear whether our new District 4 Coalition will be overseeing our election, as Southeast Uplift has done in the past.

The next item on the agenda was “Communications Committee formation”. In our newly-updated Bylaws, the Communications Committee is now included as a Standing Committee; Jim Friscia, who advocated for that, commented, “Well, I guess I’m on it.” We can seek members of the SMILE community to serve on this or any SMILE committee; Suzanne Kruse said she might be interested in joining it. Jim will call an initial meeting – he is “interim Chair”, but he is not sure he wants to continue as Chair.

The following agenda item was requested by Elaine O’Keefe because she wanted to discuss with the Board policies as relate to our committees, any “subcommittees”, and SMILE fiscal sponsorship policies. This discussion arises because the Friends of Oaks Bottom, which was resurrected independently of SMILE but which then requested that SMILE (a 501c3 nonprofit) be its fiscal sponsor for the purpose of receiving grants and donations – and which had been referred to informally by the SNAC Committee as a “subcommittee” – had publicly taken a position against a proposal by Oaks Amusement Park in the name of SMILE, and without any contact with the Board about it beforehand. There was full agreement by the Board that all SMILE positions must be approved by the Board, since the Board is responsible for them – and that they cannot be taken independent of the Board by any SMILE committee; and under our Bylaws, there are no official subcommittees of SMILE. However, there was general agreement that we should have rules provided for independent organizations for whom we have chosen to serve simply as a fiscal sponsor. Fiscal sponsorship is completely independent any committee relationship with SMILE.

However there were different shades of opinion from Board Members on details of what our committees are or should be required to do and not do. Elaine will discuss this specific matter with Tina Osterink, Chair of the SNAC Committee, and invited other Board Members to have similar discussions.

President Dugan said that he will take the lead on both our annual Egg Hunt and our May Neighborhood Clean-Up, but underlined that he will need strong volunteer help from members of the Board. He said there will be an “egg-stuffing session” on Sunday, April 13, at Moreland Presbyterian Church after the Sunday Service, around noon, and he wants “all hands” to be there to help with it. Then, on Saturday, April 19, he needs volunteers at Oaks Park to assist with the Egg Hunt itself. As for the annual SMILE Neighborhood Clean-Up, on Saturday, May 17 at Westmoreland Park, several Board Members volunteered on the spot: Pat Hainley, Suzanne Kruse, Zack Duffly, Tracy Fisher, Bob Burkholder, and Jim Friscia.

Jim Friscia asked for time at the end of the agenda to discuss SMILE’s summer public activities. The good news, he said, is that Sunday, August 24th, will be the date for our PP&R “Summer Free for All” concert in Sellwood Park. The bad news, however, is that we have lost the Windermere Parking Lot in Westmoreland as a venue for our free Saturday Summer Concerts, and we need someplace else to present them. He is checking with Moreland Presbyterian to see if they can host them. There was a general discussion about other possible locations – the Wells Fargo Bank parking lot, Tenino Street adjacent to SMILE Station, and others were suggested.

Before adjourning the meeting, President David Dugan and Elaine O’Keefe announced that we have finally concluded, and signed with PP&R, our new lease of Oaks Pioneer Church.

Pat Hainley then moved the meeting be adjourned; Suzanne Kruse seconded the motion; and the motion carried with evident unanimity at 8:59 p.m.