

**SMILE General Meeting minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 2, 2025**  
**SMILE Station**

Main Website

Procedural

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

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Elaine O’Keefe, Tracy Fisher, Grant Huling, Jason Sturgill; Bob Burkholder; Suzanne Kruse; Jim Friscia, Zack Duffly

**SMILE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Vikki DeGaa, Scott Kelly, Diane Linn, Ruth Kaser, James Barta, Myla Shortreed [4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Llewellyn School], Mindy Weimer, Priyesh Krishnan, Ben Trimm, Adam Haas; *and, via ZOOM:* Stan and Brenda Scrutton, Christine M., Elizabeth Luthy, Lonora, Lucas Rhyan, and Joyceho

**GUESTS:** Connie Shipley, Hannah Drill

The April SMILE General Meeting was called to order at 7:42 p.m., by SMILE President David Dugan, and he began by asking all those present to introduce themselves around the room, and those on ZOOM to do the same – and then asked attendees to review the minutes of the last SMILE General Meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Two typos in names were reported. After the review, Pat Hainley moved that the minutes be approved as amended, and Suzanne Kruse seconded the motion. In the subsequent vote, the motion carried with one abstention.

Next followed the featured speaker of the evening – Hannah Drill, Community Disaster Specialist for the Northwest Chapter of the American Red Cross, speaking on Emergency Preparedness. She presented using prepared slides, on the theme of “Be Red Cross Ready” – the name of a program designed to provide such preparedness. She counseled that everyone should prepare a household kit, with supplies for from three days to two weeks.

In addition, all households should have a “Go Bag”, with supplies for three days for all members of the household, including pets. Essentials include water, canned food, a first aid kit, important prescription medications – as well as a flashlight and a radio, and batteries to run both of those. “Keep a kit in your house,” she said, “And another one in your car – that one should also include flares and jumper cables. Make a plan for your own family, and make sure all family members know it.” Essentials of that plan include how to evacuate from where you are, where to meet if you are separated as well as how to communicate, the location where the family’s important records are kept, where you can stay if you cannot stay in your own dwelling – or, how to shelter in place. Memorize an emergency contact.

“Practice your plan!” she urged. She pointed out that the Red Cross has materials to help people deal with the stress of a disaster, including “Prepare With Pedro” books for children. She concluded with the advice that, “it’s a good idea to make sure members of the household are trained in first aid and C.P.R.”

Then Grant Huling, Chair of the SMILE Transportation Committee, arose along with Vikki DeGaa, to remind those present about the effort by a group of residents in the neighborhood to establish a second neighborhood “street plaza” – a half block of street in the business district that’s officially closed and used for informal gatherings. 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 in the resulting cul-de-sac.

However, the first step in the process is simply painting a street mural on the 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. Details of the plaza concept and the contest are online – <https://sellwood.org/2025/03/04/clayborne-st-plaza-project/>

Zack Duffly spoke next, representing the SMILE Elections Committee (which also includes Suzanne Kruse and Vikki DeGaa), to announce the upcoming annual Board Elections for SMILE, which will be the central item of business at our May 7th General Meeting. Four Board seats and four Officer positions will be open, and at least one of the Board seats will not have an incumbent running for re-election. Voting will open, online, at the end of that meeting, and will continue for 24 hours, before tabulation begins. Those interested in running are invited to step up and notify the committee, but nominations will be accepted from the floor of that meeting itself, as well.

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. Certain Les Schwab Tire Stores are acting as official outlets for empty milk cartons for those seeking to enter a boat in the races this year. The Milk Carton Boat Races are the only official event in Inner Southeast Portland of the annual citywide Portland Rose Festival.

President Dugan invited volunteers from the neighborhood to help us stuff plastic eggs, starting at noon on Sunday, April 13th, at Moreland Presbyterian Church – in preparation for SMILE’s annual “Easter Egg Hunt” on Saturday, April 19th, at Oaks Amusement Park. There are a lot of eggs, so we need more volunteers.

There being no other business on the agenda or offered from the floor, Pat Hainley made a motion that the meeting be adjourned; Bob Burkholder seconded the motion; and the motion carried with evident unanimity at 8:46 p.m.