

**SMILE Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 17, 2025**  
**at SMILE Station**

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Procedural

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Treasurer Pat Hainley; Secretary Eric Norberg  
**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Elaine O’Keefe, Grant Huling, Jason Sturgill  
**GUESTS:** Vikki DeGaa, Ruth Kaser

President David Dugan having been called out of town, he designated former SMILE President Elaine O’Keefe as Acting Presiding Officer to run the September Board Meeting, which she called to order at 7:32 p.m. She began by making note of the lack of a quorum present. The review of the minutes of our August Board Meeting was therefore postponed until a quorum could be attained, or – failing that – until our September Board Meeting.

The main item on the agenda for the meeting tonight was a report by Vikki DeGaa and Ruth Kaser on the “Westmoreland Plaza Project”, which has been a subject of attention by SMILE for some time. In a PowerPoint-assisted slide presentation, the pair said that “Phase One” has been completed – the painting of a colorful mural on the half-block of S.E. Claybourne at the west-side junction of Claybourne and S.E. Milwaukie Avenue.

They projected a slide of the painting design that had been decided upon and subsequently painted on the street, and it appeared that the many expenses involved had been covered by donations of money, time, and materials. This first phase was intended to test the waters for expansion of the project to a full, permanent, half-block closure of Claybourne for a public plaza – similar to the creation of the popular plaza in the half-block of S.E. Spokane Street, at the west-side junction with S.E. 13th Avenue, in Sellwood.

So far all feedback from the merchants nearby and the public has been positive, they reported, so Vikki and Ruth then moved on to a visual slide showing the proposed plaza, and the costs estimated to be involved in making it a reality.

The estimated total project cost for Phase Two is \$15,000, with \$7,500 allocated for permeable pavers, gravel, and sand – and \$5,000 designated for a public chess table with ADA stools. A major bit of landscaping required in Phase Two is removing the row of junipers from the north-side parking strip; but some of that will be covered by donations. \$1,500 is budgeted for materials for construction of two to three benches, but the construction of the benches will be done as a donation by the nonprofit “City Repair” organization. There was considerable discussion of the project following the presentation – essentially of an approving nature.

The content of the four slides in this PowerPoint presentation is incorporated into these minutes by reference.

Elaine O’Keefe thanked the pair for their presentation, and said that, as a member of the SMILE Finance Committee, she would include a request in the 2025-26 SMILE budgeting process for \$7,500 for Phase Two of the project, at the Budget Committee meeting coming up in two days.

The next agenda item was discussion of a request from Sellwood Community House for a donation of \$1,000 from SMILE for their upcoming “Hallowe’en Spooktacular” fundraiser in October. Elaine reported that we do not yet have a “year-end available budget” figure with which to consider major donations, which makes her reluctant to commit to a specific amount – and she asked if the Community House would be comfortable with having our Budget Committee determine the actual amount of SMILE’s contribution. There was no response to that question; but general discussion continued. O’Keefe pointed out that, at any rate, the Board cannot make a decision without a quorum.

The meeting turned to a general discussion of our next Fiscal Year budget – to be effective from October of 2025 through September of 2026 – and priority needs at Oaks Pioneer Church and SMILE Station, budget needs of our Communications Committee, and various other potential expenses in our forthcoming fiscal year, were discussed.

With no other items on the agenda, or offered from the floor – and still lacking a quorum to pass a motion (including adjournment) – Elaine O’Keefe as the presiding officer of this meeting declared the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.