

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2026
at SMILE Station

Main Website

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

Procedural

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Eli Fabens, Grant Huling, Seth Caddy,
Scott Kelly, Jim Friscia, Suzanne Kruse, Zack Duffly

GUESTS: (none)

President David Dugan called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. He began by asking for a review of the November 19 SMILE Board Meeting minutes. (The December Board Meeting did not occur, because of a misunderstanding between Board Members about whether there was to be one.) Pat Hainley moved that the November minutes be approved with one minor amendment, and Scott Kelly seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

President Dugan called attention to the many events SMILE sponsors or supports in the Sellwood-Westmoreland community, for the information of our newest Board Member, Seth Caddy. Last year we also supported with SMILE grants two community events – the Solstice Parade, and the Milk Carton Boat Races – and we expect to do the same again for those this year.

Jim Friscia spoke about plans for this year's SMILE Summer Concert series on Saturday evenings in July and August, and there was discussion of various ancillary elements of how the concerts were presented in 2025. As for SMILE offering events in Sellwood Park, Jim said that there seem to be too many conflicts now to do much in Sellwood Park – according to PP&R. We might have to use Sellwood Riverfront Park or Westmoreland Park for events that previously have been held in Sellwood Park. However, those Saturday summer concerts are still planned to be held on the east-side parking lot of Moreland Presbyterian Church, at 18th and Bybee, because they worked out very well there last summer for both SMILE and the church.

There was a brief discussion of the neighborhood's concrete round, painted, street garbage receptacles – and the thought was expressed that if the city wants to remove those and replace them with their new citywide metal street receptacles, we have no objection. However, Eric Norberg offered the thought that the paintings on the concrete ones was paid for by the SMBA business association, and the receptacles might belong to them too, so they should be involved in any decision on their disposal.

Scott Kelly displayed a group letter proposed by a number of other neighborhood association transportation committees around the city, in which they invited us to join. The letter (incorporated into these minutes by reference) was a little opaque, but

seemed to support TriMet and opposed some state transportation plans. President Dugan said it might be a better idea for us to write our own, much-better-written, letter than sign that one.

Dugan then introduced the thought that we need to find promotable programs to highlight our General Meetings each month – ones that we can call attention to publicly – to increase attendance at these meetings. Seth and Suzanne wondered if we might consider bi-monthly General Meetings, as some other organizations do; Pat Hainley pointed out that such a change would require once again changing our bylaws, in which the monthly meetings are required (but can occasionally be skipped, if for a valid reason).

Suzanne Kruse next brought up a letter which our Land Use Committee has written and offered to the SMILE Board for review, seeking our approval and sending it to the city. She had emailed it to the Board earlier in the day, but had just discovered that none of the Board Members had received it. So she read it aloud: It interposes an objection to the request of Portland Forward to upzone the property on which the city-owned “affordable housing” multi-story Sellwood Center apartment building stands, on the southeast corner of Tenino and S.E. 17th Avenue. President Dugan wondered, “why upzone an existing building?” He said he sees no point in doing that. It already is the tallest building in the entire neighborhood, and has been an ongoing source of disturbances in the neighborhood, as it is.

Scott Kelly made a motion that the Land Use Committee rewrite the letter to more clearly and objectively oppose the rezoning change proposal for reasons cited by Grant Huling in the preceding discussion, and Eli Fabens seconded the motion. After further discussion it appeared that there might not be a consensus. Scott Kelly then withdrew the motion, and there was no vote.

However, since timing is tight to make our position known, there will be discussion with the Land Use Committee potentially leading to an online vote by the Board to adopt and send a revised letter to the city before the deadline for comments, an option in accordance with the recently-updated SMILE bylaws.

President Dugan then briefly updated the Board on his ongoing negotiations with Portland Parks and Recreation concerning the continuation of our management of the Oaks Pioneer Church; he said the conversations have been positive, and are continuing.

There being no other business on the agenda or offered from the floor, Dugan declared the meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.