

SMILE General Public Meeting minutes

February 1, 2017

SMILE Station

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Procedural

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OFFICERS PRESENT: Corinne Stefanick, President; Gail Hoffnagle, Vice President; Pat Hainley, Treasurer; Eric Norberg, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Joel Leib; Elaine O’Keefe; Nancy Walsh, Bob Burkholder; Miriam Erb; Elizabeth Milner

President Corinne Stefanick called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m., and asked those present to introduce themselves, around the room. With a quorum present (although a substantial number of those present had omitted to sign the attendance sheets – including some Board members), she asked that the minutes of the January 4 General Meeting be reviewed for approval. Joel Leib requested a correction in the spelling of his name. Matt Hainley moved the minutes be approved as thus amended, and two simultaneous seconds were noted, one of them from Miriam Erb. The motion carried unanimously.

Stefanick announced that there will be a ceremony on 1 p.m. this Saturday afternoon at SMILE Station to formally unveil the section of the former Sellwood Bridge railing already mounted in front of our building; and she introduced Rachel Ginocchio to give additional details. Ginocchio led the effort to monetize pieces of the demolished bridge by selling them as art objects, and she also led the project to obtain the last remaining railing section and mount it at SMILE Station. She recounted the background of the project, and told how all the money raised would now be donated to Sellwood Middle School at the ceremony: Some \$7,000. The celebration is open to the public, and everyone is invited.

Next to appear was Matt Hainley, on hand to continue his conversation with the community about contributing to the current effort to replace the failing strings of lights on the SMILE community Christmas Tree. He pointed out that SMILE began sponsoring the large lit street tree in 1989, after a similar private effort ended. Ideally, the lights that are now needed should be LED lights, but that would require raising at least \$10,000, due to their high cost. A “GoFundMe” effort has gotten underway, and he said that since *THE BEE* came out last week with a news item telling about this, some \$2,000 has been raised by contributions so far – so he is optimistic that the goal can be reached.

With a report on the SMILE Land Use Committee meeting – held just before this one, this evening in SMILE Station – were committee members Miriam Erb and Vikki DeGaa. A developer planning two large apartment buildings in Sellwood had provided some art and statistics on these plans. One was for the former Mike’s Drive In property (and including the commercially-zoned house just east of that), at 1725 S.E. Tenino Street; there will be 78 units, it will be 45 feet high, and will have 21 underground parking spaces. The other location is 1635-1637 S.E. Nehalem Street, the former Sky Heating location, across from the SkyBox sports bar and restaurant: That one will have 61 units and 20 parking spaces.

Relating to these two projects, there was a discussion by those attending the SMILE General Meeting about a possible SMILE questionnaire to gauge interest in establishing parking permit zones near such projects, to preserve street parking for homeowners near high-density apartment developments with inadequate or no provided parking.

Next to speak was Michael Ashe, until very recently the owner of Wilhelm's Portland Memorial, and several other funeral properties in the area; he is retiring, and Wilhelm's and his other Portland-region properties have been sold to "Foundation Partners" of Orlando, Florida, which has funeral properties nationally. He believes they now owner will continue to run the local properties similarly to how he has run them. However, since the sale closed, the buyer has posted for sale two parcels of the Portland Memorial property: The south parking lot, on Bybee Boulevard; and the 2.2 acre, R5-zoned wilderness area north of the Mausoleum and south of Llewellyn Elementary School.

The parking lot has been sold to Martin Kehoe, but it will remain as it is for the time being, since Kehoe has no firm plans for it yet – "he may be thinking of condos, a few years out," remarked Ashe – who added that it is his understanding that the Moreland Farmers Market should be able to count on using that lot for the market at least through the upcoming season; but he understands the Market's management is considering a future move for the popular Market to the south end of Westmoreland Park.

President Stefanick thanked Ashe warmly for his stewardship of Wilhelm's, and then commented that she had attended, and helped with, the successful "Disaster Preparedness Open House and Workshop" for four hours last Saturday at SMILE Station. She invited co-organizer Bob Burkholder to give a report on it. Bob said that emergency supplies were given away as an effective crowd draw, and co-organizer Gail Hoffnagle added that the only difficulty was in reaching apartment-dwellers with news of the event. Nonetheless, it was very well attended. Southeast Uplift has provided underwriting for the disaster preparedness effort in Southeast Portland.

For SMILE's SNAC committee, its Chair, Elizabeth Milner, reported strong turnout last Sunday for the Springwater Meadows block planting along the Springwater Trail between Linn and Marion Streets. Some 100 turned out to help – about double what had been expected.

As the end of the meeting approached, President Stefanick spotted a representative from the Westmoreland homeless services center and shelter at S.E. Milwaukie Avenue at Mitchell Street, owned by Multnomah County and run by a nonprofit, in the rear of the room and invited him to give a report. He thanked the neighborhood for the many donations received to date; and, for a woman present, he explained the shelter's firm anti-drug policy and its policy concerning addressing disruptive people in the shelter.

With no other business remaining on the agenda or offered from the floor, Bob Burkholder made a motion that the meeting be adjourned, and Miriam Erb seconded. The motion carried with apparent unanimity at 8:40 p.m.