

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2016

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Procedural

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OFFICERS PRESENT: Gail Hoffnagle, Vice President; Pat Hainley, Treasurer;

Eric Norberg, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Elaine O'Keefe; Timothy DuBois; Steve Szigethy;

Miriam Erb; Bob Burkholder; Joel Leib; Nancy Walsh; Elizabeth Milner

Vice President Hoffnagle called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m., informing those present that President Stefanick was ill today and could not be present. She invited self-introductions from Board members, as well as those present in the room attending the meeting. She next asked the Board to review the minutes of the December 21 Board meeting; two slight word revisions were suggested, after which Steve Szigethy moved the minutes be approved as modified, and Miriam Erb seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

The first order of business was a Transportation Committee request, presented by its Chair Scott Kelly, that the SMILE Board send a proposed letter (incorporated into these minutes by reference) to the Portland Bureau of Transportation, asking for certain improvements to the planned development at the site of the former Boys and Girls Club block at 7119 S.E. Milwaukie Avenue. A draft letter was presented for Board approval; one of the three proposed improvements in the letter had been withdrawn by the Transportation Committee due to a lack of consensus among committee members. A discussion followed of what is and is not in the letter. Eric Norberg moved the Board approve and send the letter as now amended, and Elaine O'Keefe seconded the motion, which passed with ten yes votes and one abstention.

A discussion followed of neighbor letters sent to the city asking that the parking garage entrance for this development be relocated from S.E. 16th to Rural Street. No Board action taken.

Elaine O'Keefe, Communication Committee Chair, was next scheduled to report on her planned field trip to the Portland Bridal Show, but the show was cancelled due to the severe winter weather earlier this month; it may be rescheduled. She remarked that further suggestions about how to build the Oaks Pioneer Church rental business would be forthcoming. Nancy Walsh, Chair of the Church Committee, announced that there would be an Open House for prospective wedding parties at the church this Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of how to proceed with our Friends of the Sellwood Community Center Committee – a discussion led by SMILE Vice President, and the Chair of that committee, Gail Hoffnagle.

Gail detailed the history of the Sellwood Community Center, all the way back to its origins; Gail recalled that she and her mother “grew up in it”. In the past fifteen years it has been threatened by repeated, regular, almost ritualistic closure threats, as part of the City of Portland budgeting process. Gail said she had gone through fifteen years of past SMILE Board Meeting minutes, and recounted for the Board’s benefit each year’s key events concerning the community center at the SMILE Board level.

Now, today, the community center is once again on the annual chopping block. She asked how the SMILE Board stands on our ongoing commitments concerning the Sellwood Community Center. There was no decision made by the Board at this point, but the Board seemed very positive in general about continuing support for the community center, and much discussion followed. Kevin Downing, the founding Chair of the committee at the time of its origin, led some of the discussion, speaking both as a SMILE Past President as well as a former Chair of the Sellwood Community Center Committee.

As the meeting approached its end, Matt Hainley arose to request Board action in support of an item not on the agenda. He explained that the light strings on the SMILE Community Christmas Tree are on their last legs; some didn’t work this year, and all need to be replaced. A “GoFundMe” project has been set up to raise \$10,000 to replace the light strings with new, more durable and cheaper-to-power LED light strings, and there will be a letter about it in the February *BEE*. Hainley asked if SMILE would endorse this fund-raising effort.

Pat Hainley moved that SMILE endorse the “GoFundMe” effort to raise \$10,000 for new LED light strings for the SMILE Community Christmas Tree, and Nancy Walsh seconded the motion. The motion carried without objection.

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