

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2016

SMILE Station

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Timothy DuBois; Steve Szigethy; Miriam Erb;
Bob Burkholder; Joel Leib; Nancy Walsh; Elizabeth Milner

President Corrine Stefanick called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m., asking the members of the Board to introduce themselves for the benefit of the spectators in the room – and then asking everyone else in the room to introduce himself or herself. She next asked the Board to review the minutes of the January 18 Board Meeting. A repeated phrase was discovered in the second paragraph, and was struck. Then Steve Szigethy made a motion the minutes be approved as amended, and Nancy Walsh seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Scott Kelly, Chair of the SMILE Transportation Committee, was first to present, concerning several items of business. He began by bringing up a matter suggested by Steve Szigethy: The possibility of a letter from SMILE to the Union Pacific Railroad concerning noise and air quality issues from the continuing all-night idling of locomotives in the Brooklyn Yard. Kevin Downing – former SMILE President, and the lead negotiator in the resolution of the lawsuit with U.P. by SMILE and Eastmoreland, as well as the City of Portland, a few years ago – was present, an acknowledged expert in issues involving the railroad and personally known to Union Pacific. Kevin answered questions on current usage of the railyard. He added that there have been no compliance reports filed with the presiding court as required by the judge in the settlement (and the judge has now retired). There was considerable discussion on all aspects of the issue, after which Steve said he would work with Kevin and the Transportation Committee, and will return to the Board for more discussion later.

Next, Scott suggested that SMILE needs more bike racks at SMILE Station – “this is still an issue with bicycle riders”. He proposes an 18-foot-long, 8-foot-wide concrete pad to accommodate lockable bike racks on the south side of SMILE Station near the sidewalk. Apparently the city is willing to donate the bike racks if we install the concrete pad. There followed a discussion of possible locations on our property for the pad. Nancy Walsh and Eric Norberg were concerned Kelly’s proposed location would interfere with renters’ use of the side yard at SMILE Station, which could impact SMILE rental revenue. Eventually consensus seemed to converge on the north parking strip between S.E. 13th and our north driveway. President Stefanick made a motion to pursue the bike racks at that location, and Tim DuBois seconded the motion, which then passed – with two abstentions.

Kelly next told the Board that Elaine O'Keefe had put together a draft parking survey to probe neighborhood interest in resident parking permits (and permits for businesses). He gave a quick summary for the Board of these plans, and read proposed questions from the

survey for the Board. There followed considerable discussion of some of the proposed questions. No decisions were made at this time.

Finally, Scott Kelly introduced Ms. Roseman, present at the meeting, who with her daughter plan to develop a duplex at 8325 S.E. 19th Avenue, and have sought an exception from the city to allow two driveways on the property rather than a single wide driveway. She told the Board that the costs of the development would be beyond her and her daughter if they had to create the wide driveway; and after showing the plans for the property, she told the Board that the design with the two driveways was more neighborhood-friendly anyway. Two divisions of the city are at odds with each other over which plan should be approved, and she asked the Board to advocate the “two driveways” solution. After a discussion, it was evident that the Board agreed with the Transportation Committee that the “two driveways” approach is preferable. Eric Norberg then made a motion that SMILE write a letter of support for the Roseman “two driveways” option; Gail Hoffnagle seconded the motion; the motion carried with nine “yes” votes, and two abstentions. Stefanick will write and send the letter to Terry Redneau at the Portland Bureau of Transportation.

Next to speak was Vice President Gail Hoffnagle, on the subject of the Sellwood Community Center; she is Chair of the SMILE “Friends of the Sellwood Community Center Committee”. The Center is once again off the chopping block in the current city budget cycle, she said, but the “Friends” Committee wants to determine the community vision for the Center. She passed out a proposed survey questionnaire (incorporated into these minutes by reference) for Board review and approval. She received informal approval.

Gail brought up a “permanent committee” which SMILE had set up years ago as a fiduciary for the Community-Center-earmarked funds in SMILE’s possession – funds which SMILE had received in the course of seeking to build an endowment for the Center. She pointed out that the “permanent committee” had never been set up operationally. “Should it be? Need it be?” Those were her questions to the Board. Pat Hainley pointed out that, ultimately, the SMILE Board has full responsibility for the earmarked money and its disbursement; the stated purpose for the funds is to let them accumulate until they reach at least \$1.5 million, when they become an income-producing endowment.

It seemed the consensus of the Board in the ensuing discussion that the “permanent committee” does not seem necessary. Kevin Downing, still present, and the former Chair of the “Friends” committee at the time these steps towards the endowment took place, pointed out that the “permanent committee” had been constituted not as an option but as a requirement, so if we don’t believe we actually need it, we should re-adopt the resolution, removing that language. The Board will consider doing so at the next Board meeting.

With the meeting nearing its conclusion, Pat Hainley reported that the SMILE History Committee has the unusual opportunity to purchase a lot of historical photos, but it would require an expenditure larger than the \$200 budget allocated in the SMILE budget to the committee this year. He asked if the Board had any objection to this expenditure. It did not. The expenditure will be approved.

Eric Norberg moved the meeting be adjourned; Pat Hainley seconded the motion; the motion carried with evident unanimity at 9:24 p.m.