

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2016

SMILE Station

Blog

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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: Timothy DuBois; Steve Szigethy; Miriam Erb; Bob Burkholder; Joel Leib; Nancy Walsh; Elizabeth Milner, Elaine O’Keefe

President Corrine Stefanick called the meeting to order at 7:35 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 February 15 Board Meeting. A clarification was requested in the second paragraph on page one. Then Elaine O’Keefe made a motion that the minutes be approved as amended, and Miriam Erb seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

President Stefanick reminded those present that the annual Board Election is coming up at the SMILE General Meeting in May, on the 3rd; and four of eight two-year at-large seats are up for election (and at least one of the incumbents is not running again), and all four one-year officer positions are also up for election (and President Stefanick is term-limited, and must relinquish the Presidency). Tim DuBois is heading the SMILE Election Nominations Committee; Ed Nunez has just joined that committee. Candidates may be suggested to the committee, or can be nominated from the floor at the May meeting prior to the election.

The Co-Chair of the SMILE History Committee, Eileen Fitzsimons, was present to update the Board on her committee. It receives a small line item in the SMILE budget each year for acquisition of historic photos to add to its collection, which contains some 200 photos at this point. A local author is selling local historic photos from his collection – \$370 bought us a number of excellent historic local pictures, with documentation to go with them – including photos of Dr. Sellwood himself, the old Sellwood General Hospital, and more. Eileen said the committee would like to offer these Kenneth Brown Collection photos to the City Archives for permanent storage (however, high quality copies of all of them will be kept by the SMILE committee). Elaine O’Keefe made a motion this offer be made, and Nancy Walsh seconded it, after which the motion carried unanimously.

Joel Leib, head of the ad-hoc SMILE Bridge Railing Installation Committee, distributed a sketch of a proposed brick walkway across the SMILE Station front lawn (incorporated into these minutes by reference), which he suggests be installed to facilitate local residents observing at close quarters the section of old Sellwood Bridge railing installed in front of the flagpole. He believes 768 bricks would be involved, which would facilitate a fundraiser – by selling sponsorships of 700 bricks for \$100 apiece, to be inscribed with an acknowledgement of each donor. SMILE’s cost of the bricks would be about \$800, and professional installation costs appear to be between \$3,500 and \$5,600. A spectator at the meeting

pointed out that good drainage must be included in the installation, and Joel conceded that drainage had not been included in the estimates he had received. Eileen Fitzsimons observed that we may need to get a city permit for this walkway, and the city may require design changes to enhance accessibility. Joel will look into the matter further.

David Schoellhamer, SMILE Land Use Committee Chair, arose to discuss the city “design overlay”. It starts with zoning designations; for special features there are various design overlays. Of interest to SMILE is the B Overlay, to preserve neighborhood character by imposing additional design requirements on new residential buildings. R1, R2, and RH zoning has long had design overlay requirements; now they’re planned to apply to commercial properties. SMILE lobbied for this in the city’s Comprehensive Plan. The city has now hired a consultant to find ways of making changes in the zoning codes to make design overlay more effective. There will be public comment opportunities. Schoellhamer passed out a letter proposed letter for consideration and approval by the SMILE Board. The letter (incorporated into these minutes by reference) offers SMILE’s comments on the proposed zoning changes. He explained these proposed comments for the Board.

Eileen Fitzsimons remarked that SMILE had paid for a “neighborhood context” study by a consultant many years ago that is available and could be useful in this context; Schoellhamer agreed that it could be valuable. Eileen said she would get him a copy. Considerable discussion followed, mainly involving Board members attempting to understand the planned revisions of the zoning code and design overlay.

Eric Norberg moved, and Elaine O’Keefe seconded, that the SMILE Board submit to the city that letter of comments that David had presented – bearing in mind that we are already past the comment deadline, but that the city had indicated that if SMILE has something to submit right now, they would review it. Further discussion and clarification followed. The question was called, and the vote was 10 yes, 1 no, and 1 abstention. The motion carried.

Steve Szigethy distributed a draft letter to the Board that he had written, relevant to his concerns at the last Board meeting about idling switching engines and air quality in Union Pacific’s Brooklyn Rail Yard. Kevin Downing was present at this Board meeting. Having passed it out, Steve said he now planned to withdraw the letter – because it appears Union Pacific may have already done most, if not all, of what was required of them in its legal settlement with SMILE, ENA, and the City of Portland – namely, replace three locomotives and one “slug”. Downing explained what a “slug” engine is; he presented the court docket, and suggested an inquiry that SMILE could initiate. He had discovered that the reports required of Union Pacific, which he said at the last Board meeting had apparently not been filed, may have actually been filed with the court, but had not been posted on the docket.

SMILE Vice President Gail Hoffnagle reported that at the last Southeast Uplift meeting, “Portland Tenants United” had sought Uplift support for their position concerning abrupt rent increases. Gail wondered if any of the SMILE Board had heard of this sort of abuse occurring anywhere in our neighborhood – and if so, to please let her know about it.

There being no other business on the agenda or offered from the floor, Pat Hainley made a motion that the meeting be adjourned; Tim DuBois seconded; the motion carried with evident unanimity at 9:15 p.m.