

SMILE General Public Meeting minutes

May 3, 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; Timothy DuBois; Elizabeth Milner; Miriam Erb; Steve Szigethy

President Corinne Stefanick called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m., and asked those present to introduce themselves, around the room. With a quorum easily established, she asked that the minutes of the April 5 General Meeting be reviewed for approval. After the review, Scott Kelly moved the minutes be approved as presented, and Nancy Walsh seconded the motion, which carried nearly unanimously – with one abstention.

A man introducing himself simply as a parent at Llewellyn Elementary School arose to invite all present to the annual Llewellyn Carnival at 5:30 p.m. on Friday night, June 2, for “food, games, frivolity – come one, come all.” It’s a fundraiser for the school.

There being no other announcements at that point, Stefanick called upon Tim DuBois, Chair of this year’s SMILE Nominations and Election Committee, to lead the meeting to conduct – along with his two committee members, Ed Nunez and Ed LeClair – the annual SMILE Board Election. Mireaya Medina of Southeast Uplift was present to oversee the election and the vote tabulation. All meeting attendees were screened at the sign-in table, and those eligible under SMILE Bylaws were handed a ballot for the election to follow.

Four of SMILE’s eight at-large two-year Board seats were open, as were all four SMILE one-year Officer seats. President Stefanick had reached the two-consecutive-year term limit specified only for the President in our bylaws, and her seat was open; Joel Leib elected to run for that seat. Steve Sizgethy’s decision also to leave the Board resulted in Bob Burkholder and Nancy Walsh being the only at-large Board incumbents seeking another term.

DuBois invited those running for any of the available seats to speak briefly to those present on their backgrounds and interest in the position they were seeking. A small public address system was set up by Pat Hainley to assist their being heard by the large crowd in the room.

First to speak was Kim Borcharding, who said she has been a resident of the neighborhood since 2009, lives on Malden Street, and is a “working mom”. She formerly was in software sales, and is now in real estate. She said she wants to contribute to the community, and displayed a banner which she believed described her commitment to doing so.

Joel Leib was next. He is a twelve-year resident of the neighborhood, and has been on the Board – he is now running for President. He counseled the candidates in the room, who exceeded the number of open seats, that if they don’t win: “Run again!” And he reminded

that participation on a SMILE committee of their interest would be beneficial to the neighborhood, and could begin right away. [Winning candidates are invited to do the same.]

Bob Burkholder stood to introduce himself; he is on the Board, and has been very active leading the SMILE Emergency Preparedness Committee. He told of the committee's emergency preparedness seminars, which have been presented block by block to much of the neighborhood. Blocks which have not yet participated are encouraged to contact Bob or Gail Hoffnagle to arrange a seminar on their block. He is pursuing N.E.T. training.

Kevin Palmer arose to say that he lives on S.E. 20th in Westmoreland; he bought his home here four years ago, and is now interested in getting more involved in the community.

Nancy Walsh introduced herself as a "Portland Parks Retiree" and a longtime resident on S.E. 20th in Westmoreland. She has been on the Board for some time, and has also served as SMILE President. She now leads three SMILE Committees: The SMILE Oaks Pioneer Church Committee, the Sundae in the Park Committee, and the SMILE Station Committee. Win or lose, she plans to continue her role on those committees.

Carmen Van Nieuwerk was next; she excused herself for not feeling very well at this meeting, but told how she had lived in cities all over the world, and now wants to get involved in this neighborhood. She's been helping Elaine O'Keefe in updating the SMILE website.

Pat Hainley, SMILE Treasurer, spoke briefly – remarking that he had been born and raised in the neighborhood, and has been Treasurer for some twenty years, and would like to continue serving in that position.

Eric Norberg, SMILE Secretary, was next to sketch his background, which included forty years in radio – he came to Portland in 1975 to be Program Director at KEX, and liked the area so much he gave up his career to stay here with his wife in the house they bought in 1979 on Harold Street in Westmoreland. He is on three SMILE Committees – Church, Sundae in the Park, and Finance. He has been Editor of *THE BEE* for 17 years, and has been Secretary of SMILE for about twenty, and would like to continue.

Gail Hoffnagle, former SMILE President and current SMILE Vice President, discussed neighborhood institutions; she is Chair of the SMILE "Friends of Sellwood Community Center" Committee and is very active in the Emergency Preparedness, Crime Prevention, and Sundae in the Park Committees. She sketched briefly the future projects she has in mind, if she were to be re-elected Vice President.

Finally, Brian Bawol came forward – a late candidate, who entered the election after the ballots were printed. (Timothy DuBois held up large signs showing the correct spelling of his name, so that he could be written in as an at-large candidate for the Board.) Bawol said he has lived on S.E. Miller Street for 3-1/2 years, and confided that he had been thinking about running for the SMILE Board for a long time – "and it feels like now is the time." It's a great neighborhood, he said. He's an independent software developer, working at home.

With the candidate introductions at an end at 8:25 p.m., the Nominations and Election Committee members roved the room collecting completed ballots, after which they retired to the basement for the Southeast-Uplift-supervised ballot counting.

While they were engaged in that activity Elaine O’Keefe, representing in this case the SMILE Transportation Committee, arose to point out that a big issue currently in the community concerns parking, including little if any off-street parking at many new apartment developments in the neighborhood, and SMILE is doing a survey on the subject to establish a consensus of local opinions on parking issues. Over 300 responses have been received so far – 274 from residents and 62 from businesses; 242 of the responding residents live in single family homes. She is hoping for at least 600 responses, and greater diversity among those taking the survey. She would welcome volunteers in the outreach to accomplish this.

Nancy Walsh spoke at some length about the plans for this year’s annual SMILE “Thank You Party” for the neighborhood, “Sundae in the Park” at upper Sellwood Park, held since 1979 on the first Sunday in August (it’s the 6th of August this year). She summarized the events included in the all-day family affair, including music performers and food opportunities, centering on the Sundaes in the event’s name – of vanilla and chocolate ice cream, with toppings, served currently by members of the Southeast Portland Rotary Club. David O’Connor, incoming President of that Rotary Club, was present at the meeting. Nancy pointed out that the Sundae in the Park Committee meets on the second Wednesday evening of each month through July at SMILE Station, from 7:30 to 9 pm, and anyone in the neighborhood interested in helping to present this very-well-attended party in the park, would be warmly welcome to attend and participate.

An attendee arose to remind that the next “Sunday Parkways” in the neighborhood – our third, to date – will be on Sunday, September 21, and will coincide with the Westmoreland Park “Salmon Celebration” again his year.

Since the vote counting process was taking an unusually long time in the basement, outgoing President Corinne Stefanick took the opportunity to thank all SMILE Committees for their work during her two terms as President, and introduced the remaining committee heads present for brief reports.

Finally the Nominations and Election Committee members emerged from the basement to reveal that recounts had been done to be certain of the election outcome, which was: The single candidates for the four officer positions had been elected; and for the at-large Board seats, Bob Burkholder, Brian Bawol, and Kim Borcharding had been elected – but, in an unprecedented turn of events, there was a tie for the fourth at-large Board seat, and nothing in the SMILE Bylaws indicates how a tie should be resolved. (Perhaps any future revision of the Bylaws should address this.) The tie was between Nancy Walsh and Kevin Palmer.

Nancy Walsh volunteered to withdraw her candidacy to give Kevin Palmer the seat, saying that it was important to get “new blood on the Board”, and adding that her longtime deep involvement with SMILE would continue, with her chairmanship of the three committees.

The election was thus resolved and concluded, and President Corinne Stefanick – for her last time – declared the meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.