

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2017

SMILE Station

Main Website

www.SellwoodMoreland.org

Procedural

www.SMILErecords.org

OFFICERS PRESENT: Joel Leib, President; Gail Hoffnagle, Vice President; Pat Hainley, Treasurer; Eric Norberg, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Elizabeth Milner, Bob Burkholder, Elaine O’Keefe, Miriam Erb, Kim Borcharding, Brian Bawol, Kevin Palmer, Tim DuBois

President Joel Leib called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m., asking those present to introduce themselves, around the room. He then asked the Board to review the minutes of the October 18th Board Meeting. Elaine O’Keefe moved the minutes be approved with a spelling correction, and Miriam Erb seconded; the motion carried with two abstentions.

David Schoellhamer, SMILE Land Use Committee Chair, was first on the agenda, and he began with a detailed recap of the Portland “Residential Infill Project”, or R.I.P. – including its history, its proposed regulations, its open public comment period, and the implications of its proposed regulations. Then he went through the various proposed comments from the SMILE Land Use Committee, being submitted to the SMILE Board this evening for approval by the Board and submission to the city in the current comment period.

After Board members praised David and the committee for their thoroughness and careful consideration reflected in the proposed comments, Bob Burkholder made a motion that the Board approve and send the city the comments as submitted by our Land Use Committee. Eric Norberg seconded the motion, which carried with one “no” vote.

Next to present was Scott Kelly, the Chair of the SMILE Transportation Committee. SMILE had previously advocated a 20 M.P.H. speed limit in the business district of Sellwood along S.E. 13th, an improvement that has now been implemented. The Transportation Committee now seeks SMILE Board approval for a letter to PBOT advocating the same for the central part of the Westmoreland business district – the proposal being from Knapp Street north to Yukon Street.

There followed a generally supportive discussion by members of the Board – with the main point of contention being whether the proposed speed limit reduction should end at Knapp or further north. The Board seemed generally in favor of extending it further north, and Tim DuBois pointed out that, by the definition used in describing the business district, the speed limit could extend north to Insley Street. The Board seemed more comfortable requesting a northern limit of Reedway Street, about halfway between the original northern limit proposed and Insley Street. Tim DuBois moved that the letter be modified to specify a northern limit for the requested new speed reduction zone of Reedway, with a comment that the Board would not be opposed to extending the speed reduction all the way north to Insley Street. The motion was seconded by Bob Burkholder, and then carried unanimously.

As for submitting the amended letter to PBOT as an official request of the SMILE Board, the motion to do so was made by Elizabeth Milner and seconded by Kevin Palmer, and that motion also carried unanimously.

An organization called “350PDX” followed on the agenda, having requested the opportunity to appear. Anais Tuepker, a resident of the Brooklyn neighborhood, was present, representing the nonprofit organization, which is seeking the endorsement of neighborhood associations around the city for a proposed ballot measure, planned for the November, 2018, election, dealing with renewable energy and improving energy efficiency – primarily, it appeared, for the benefit of residents of the city and their dwellings.

The proposed ballot measure would create a fund for nonprofit organizations seeking to promote energy efficiency and affordable housing, and to support apprenticeships and job creation in related industries. The funds would be raised by the measure from a “1% gross receipts tax” of 1% on larger retail businesses and companies, in addition to the 2.2% business license fee they already pay – it would affect some 125 qualifying businesses with a presence within the city, she said; those making more than \$1 billion dollars gross, nationally – and is expected to raise \$30 million.

In the ensuing question and answer period, Eric Norberg expressed concern that endorsing a ballot measure might be in conflict with the nonpolitical requirements of our 501c3 status. Pat Hainley did not think it would. Tim DuBois was concerned with the general governmental exclusion of hydropower as a form of renewable energy, since without that exclusion Portland would already meet all energy efficiency goals. Bob Burkholder asked how this plan would address the over 40% of our neighborhood residents who rent. Elizabeth Milner thought the ballot measure was a good idea, and Elaine O’Keefe found it “interesting”. In the end, the Board made no decision on the request this evening; Tuepker agreed to provide more specific information, and the exact proposal, for future SMILE Board consideration.

The nonprofit “Friends of Moreland Woods” was last on the agenda – represented primarily this evening by former SMILE President Corinne Stefanick. The organization was approaching SMILE, seeking to have SMILE serve as fiscal agent for contributions received for the purchase of the land between Wilhelm’s Portland Memorial and Llewellyn Elementary School – which is being called “Moreland Woods”. The purpose of buying the land is to keep it a wooded parkland, protected from development. Although the “Friends of Moreland Woods” is nonprofit, it is not at this time a 501c3, so they need a fiscal agent to receive contributions in order for donations to be tax-deductible to the giver. Pat Hainley pointed out that the way SMILE would accept doing this for them is for the “Friends of Moreland Woods” to become an ad-hoc committee of SMILE, which then would allow SMILE to receive such contributions for the committee, stipulated as dedicated funds.

Pat Hainley moved that SMILE establish an ad-hoc “Friends of Moreland Woods Committee” under our standing SNAC committee, which is chaired by Elizabeth Milner, who is also included the leadership of the “Friends of Moreland Woods”. Bob Burkholder seconded the motion. Some clarification of terms took place in the discussion period, after which the SMILE Board passed the motion unanimously. Then, Pat moved the meeting be adjourned, Bob and Miriam seconded, and the motion carried unanimously at 9:30 p.m.