

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2018
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: Bob Burkholder, Elaine O’Keefe, Julie Currin, Simon Fulford, Elizabeth Milner, Kim Borcharding

President Joel Leib called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m., asking the Board Members present to introduce themselves first, since two of them were new to the Board, and then invited spectators to introduce themselves as well, around the room. He then asked the Board to review the minutes of the April 18th Board Meeting. There was the notation of a missing word. Then Elaine O’Keefe moved the minutes be approved as amended, and Simon Fulford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Elizabeth Milner distributed a letter from the Perkins-Coie law firm offering pro-bono legal advice to the SMILE Friends of Moreland Woods Committee, during the process of attempting to raise funds and buy for a neighborhood park the “Moreland Woods” property between the Wilhelm’s Portland Memorial mausoleum and Llewellyn Elementary School. The Board seemed favorable to the proposal – but the agreement provided that SMILE would reimburse the firm for any related expenses; and Elaine O’Keefe, with Pat Hainley’s agreement, proposed a cumulative \$500 expense limit to such expenses without prior authorization by SMILE. President Joel said he was slightly uneasy by the firm’s retaining the option to represent a party adversarial to SMILE, but he understood why it was there. Elizabeth Milner moved SMILE accept the pro-bono legal offer with the amendment proposed by Elaine; Simon Fulford seconded the motion, which then carried unanimously.

Milner than sought guidance on what decisions the Friends of Moreland Woods Committee can make without Board authorization. Gail Hoffnagle remarked that the function of a SMILE committee is to do the prep work before presenting matters to the Board for a decision and/or approval. A general discussion on this subject followed. It was pointed out that if timeliness is an issue, Special Board Meetings are allowed under the SMILE Bylaws, when needed, and even Executive Sessions to discuss legal strategy, as well.

Corinne Stefanick was present to report on the recent SMILE Open House. The turnout by the public was not as good as at the first Open House in January of 2016, but 26 local businesses stepped up to make donations, and we did have good participation – the crowd was smaller, but seemed fully involved with discussions of issues in the neighborhood at the SMILE committee tables. Elaine O’Keefe suggested that future Open Houses be scheduled to coincide with a SWBA/SWBA event, not only to boost attendance, but to work in harmony and solidarity with our local business association.

Gail Hoffnagle was invited by President Leib to report on the Sellwood Community Center issue. She responded that the final Portland City Budget had been passed by the City Council that day, and it was her understanding that all three smaller Community Centers, including ours, have been saved for from one to two years – while a committee is formed by the city to look at future city recreation plans. The downside of that is that the committee could decide that any or all of these Centers are superfluous, which could then spell their doom. There followed a general discussion about the current goals and directions of Portland Parks and Recreation, and its financial challenges.

Kim Borcharding arose next to report on our SMILE Station “brick pathway fundraiser”. 155 bricks have been sold so far (of which ten are the larger size), and the brick engraving will be done in August. After expenses, profit for SMILE use could be as high as \$13,500. There was a discussion of just when sales should be cut off, and how that deadline could be used to promote more brick-buying; the Board seemed in agreement that the cutoff date should be the end of the day of the SMILE “Sundae in the Park” on Sunday, August 5, at which there should be a prominent last-minute push.

Scott Kelly, Chair of the SMILE Transportation Committee, quickly summarized the accomplishments of his committee in the past year, and presented a letter drafted by the committee asking Metro to include the long-advocated “Reedway Street Overcrossing” – across McLoughlin Boulevard, the MAX rails, and the Union Pacific railyard – to connect to the Reedway alignment on both ends. Gail Hoffnagle moved the letter be adopted by the Board and sent; Elaine O’Keefe seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

David Schoellhamer, Chair of the SMILE Land Use Committee, presented a list of his appointments to his committee to the Board for approval – incorporated into these minutes by reference. Elaine O’Keefe moved the appointments be accepted; Eric Norberg and Kim Borcharding simultaneously seconded the motion, which went on to pass unanimously.

David then presented a letter from the committee for Board approval on the latest version of the city’s “Better Housing By Design” code and rule changes; he then presented the letter with annotation in a PowerPoint presentation, accompanied by a detailed discussion of the points in it. Eric Norberg moved the letter be approved and sent, Kim Borcharding seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

To conclude the Board Meeting, President Joel Leib gave a report to the Board, with the assistance of members of the committee which had interviewed the applicants, on the status of the search for a part-time marketing expert to help build rentals for Oaks Pioneer Church as well as for SMILE Station. The ten applicants have been winnowed down to three, and then two; of those, one has emerged as the best choice and will be offered the job – a six month assignment with a limit of \$2,000 in hourly monthly pay, as previously discussed by the Board in a Special Board Meeting. If that candidate turns it down, the second choice, or even the third choice, should be also able to do a good job for us in this position.

There being no other business on the agenda or offered from the Board, Elaine O’Keefe moved adjournment, and Eric Norberg seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.