

SMILE General Meeting minutes

August 1, 2018

SMILE Station

Main Website

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Procedural

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Burkholder; Elaine O’Keefe; Tyler Janzen; Kevin Palmer; Julie Currin; Elizabeth Milner

President Joel Leib called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m., and began by asking those present to introduce themselves, around the room. Leib observed that a quorum was present, and asked that the SMILE members present review the minutes of the June 6 General Meeting (there was no General Meeting in July, since the First Wednesday fell on a national holiday – Independence Day, July 4). A misspelling of a name was noted, and two other minor changes were requested. Ed Nunez moved that the minutes be approved as amended, Bob Burkholder seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

President Leib asked Nancy Walsh to make a final report on the planning for this Sunday’s 39th annual “Sundae in the Park” in upper Sellwood Park. Nancy said that the ice cream freezers will arrive tomorrow at the park, and the ice cream will be delivered Friday, when the freezers will be filled – with the remainder of the ice cream for the sundaes to be stored for us temporarily by QFC Market, as in past years. We will pick it up, as needed, during the afternoon of the event this Sunday.

Nancy added that although we do have some volunteers coming, we still do need volunteers to assist in the setup in the park Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m., and after the SMILE portion of the day is completed after about 5 p.m. We also need help at the SMILE table, especially if we hope to “sell” more SMILE Station inscribed bricks there, as we have announced.

President Leib then announced that 198 “inscribed bricks” in the path in front of SMILE Station have been “sold” so far in this SMILE fundraiser; the inscribing will occur a little later this month; and the final push for sales will indeed take place this Sunday at “Sundae in the Park”.

Next to speak was Vice President Gail Hoffnagle, who is proposing that the SMILE “Friends of Sellwood Community Center” Committee sponsor and run a “haunted house” at Hallowe’en in the Center, as a fundraiser for the Center. Her purpose in announcing it now was to make sure the Board was aware of the plan, which would be covered by SMILE event insurance; and to sound out public input on this idea. No questions were raised about it at this time, but the mood in the room appeared to be supportive.

Former SMILE Board Member Eric Miller arose to outline an idea he would like to see implemented – that the two upper tennis courts in upper Sellwood Park; those two nearest the swimming pool – be repaired and converted to “Futsal Courts”. This idea he has found to be very popular, and it would not affect the two lower tennis courts, now regularly used for tennis and Pickle Ball. He said he was present to seek input from the meeting attendees, and he ultimately hopes that SMILE will endorse this effort, which he can cite in his presentation of the idea to Portland Parks and Recreation. He introduced a guest, Vytas Andriuškevičius – a Lithuanian member of the Portland Timbers soccer team, and a resident of the Sellwood-Westmoreland neighborhood – who enthusiastically endorsed the idea, and said he feels that the Timbers could help with this project. The estimate of the cost to construct such a court in that space is \$70,000. He had some detailed handouts on the plan, which are incorporated into these minutes by reference.

Debbie Bischoff and Jeff Caudeill, representing River City Planners and the Portland Bureau of Sustainability, were next to appear – to explain in detail the “River Plan South Reach Project”. A handout was offered in further explanation, which is incorporated into these minutes by reference. The purpose of their appearance at SMILE was to outline the purpose and objectives of this process, and to receive resident feedback. Ultimately, the final plan – after the development process is completed – will go to the City Council for adoption, probably fairly early in 2020. Very few questions or comments were offered by those present at this time.

Last on the agenda was Niki Reading, a “strategic communications professional” whose background includes having spent twenty years as a working journalist, and who has met with some of the SMILE Board Members already. She is seeking to help this organization develop a “communications plan”, with the goal of increasing our reach and our community engagement. She focused on the need to tailor the content offered via each communications medium we use, or might use in the future, to focus each one individually upon the matters of interest to those who commonly are reached by each of the communications media employed. She apparently was present at this time mainly to call the attention of SMILE members and Board Members to what she had been asked to help with, and to notify them that this effort was in progress.

There being nothing else on the agenda or offered from the floor, Gail Hoffnagle moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Pat Hainley seconded the motion – which then carried with evident unanimity at 9:04 p.m.