

SMILE General Meeting minutes

September 5, 2018

SMILE Station

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Procedural

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

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

President Joel Leib called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m., and began by asking those present to introduce themselves, around the room. Leib observed that a quorum of SMILE members was present, and asked that the SMILE members present review the minutes of the August 1 General Meeting. A “plural” in place of a “singular” was requested for a word on page 2. Elaine O’Keefe moved that the minutes be approved as amended, Kevin Palmer seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Don Stevens, a Brooklyn Action Corps neighborhood association member, was present, and requested five minutes to make an announcement before the agenda items began; President Leib invited him to proceed. He said his neighborhood is hosting a Town Hall meeting on September 25 at B.A.C.’s usual monthly General Meeting, at the Sacred Heart meeting room at Milwaukie Avenue at Center Street, with a focus on diesel emissions – in which, he said, Multnomah County ranks fourth among all counties in the country. He invited interested local residents to attend.

Proceeding with the agenda items, President Leib introduced Emily Motter of the Portland Bottle Shop in Sellwood, who announced that this Saturday, starting at 11 a.m., the second annual “Portland Picnic” will take place in Westmoreland Park. It’s a family-friendly wine-tasting event, with a charge for the wine tasting – the proceeds of which will be donated to local charities. She invited all present to plan to spend the afternoon and evening there.

Janet Johnson of the Crystal Springs Partnership was present to discuss the potential formation of “Friends of Westmoreland Park”. “The Parks Department does not have the resources to do everything the park needs,” she said, “And it welcomes our forming this group.” She, and Elizabeth Milner and Susan Schen of the SMILE SNAC Committee, are getting this group started. The first “work project” in the park is Tuesday, September 25, 10 a.m., at the park, which will start with an assessment of needs. Then the meeting times for the group in the park will always be on the last Tuesday of each month, April through October, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Volunteers should bring gardening gloves and any of their tools they particularly like to use; but tools will also be on hand for volunteers to use.

Kara Griffey was next to appear – she is the Walk Director for the Alzheimer’s Association of Oregon. She commented she had grown up in Sellwood. Then she went on to explain

that Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in Oregon; 65,000 Oregonians have the fatal disease, and even more caregivers are also affected by the disease. She discussed the services offered by the association, and distributed folders to those interested.

JoAnn Herrge, a volunteer with Eastside Village, arose for the next agenda item. "Eastside Village is not a place, it is a concept" – by which disabled adults and senior citizens can "age in place" with a little help. This program is spreading through the Portland area, and nationwide. Members pay annual dues, and get various services when they need them – the number one service turns out to be transportation. Eastside Village is nonprofit, and serves an area of the city from I-84 south to the Clackamas County line, and from the Willamette River east to around S.E. 122nd. "Social memberships" are \$300 per year for individuals, and \$500 a year for couples; "full memberships" are \$540 per year for individuals, and \$780 for couples. She, too, then distributed folders on her organization.

Next to speak were Catherine Owen and Pam Jacobson, advocating for Pickleball Courts at Sellwood Park – they were supported by a large number of non-SMILE-member visitors who arrived for the presentation. The plan they propose is to work with the group which former SMILE Board Member Eric Miller represented at the last General Meeting, which advocates converting the two disused upper Tennis Courts near the Sellwood Park swimming pool into Futsal Courts. The Pickleball group supports that idea, and their focus is on the two other, lower, Tennis Courts in the park. They propose converting one of those into four Pickleball Courts, and refurbishing the other one into an attractive Tennis Court. Under this plan, instead of four Tennis Courts at Sellwood Park, there would be two Futsal Courts, four Pickleball Courts, and one Tennis Court.

Owen and Jacobson said they would like SMILE to consider supporting this plan for its presentation to Portland Parks and Recreation. They added that if this plan succeeds, Sellwood Park would have the first free, public, Pickleball Courts within the Portland City Limits. No action by SMILE was requested at this time, however.

The last agenda item involved Shayna Hobson and Matt Olgin of Willamette Center, the Multnomah-County-owned, by-reservation homeless shelter for women and couples, subject to strict rules of conduct, at S.E. Milwaukie Avenue and Mitchell Street at the north end of Westmoreland. So far, they said, the shelter is running successfully and assisting its residents into jobs and housing. They are not aware of any problems of concern to the neighborhood resulting from the shelter, which previous SMILE forums have corroborated; and SMILE Secretary Eric Norberg, who lives three or four blocks from the shelter agreed with that assessment. Donations of meals for the 120 residents, and good clothing, are still welcome. There followed considerable Q and A on the particulars of the shelter, its operation, etc.

There being no other agenda items, or business offered from the floor after an invitation by President Leib, Susan Schen made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Elizabeth Milner seconded the motion, which then passed with evident unanimity at 8:47 p.m.