

SMILE General Meeting minutes

February 6, 2019

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: Elaine O’Keefe; Julie Currin; Bob Burkholder; Tyler Janzen; Simon Fulford; Kevin Palmer

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 concluded that a quorum of SMILE members was present, so he asked for a review of the minutes of the December 5, 2018, General Meeting. (The General Meeting for January was cancelled, since it would have been on the day after New Year’s Day, and low attendance was expected.)

Bob Burkholder made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Kevin Palmer seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

First on the agenda was SMILE’s Sundae in the Park Committee Chairperson, Nancy Walsh, who announced that the committee would begin its monthly “second Wednesday evening of the month” planning meetings on February 13, 7:30 p.m., in SMILE Station. (If there is a scheduling conflict, the committee will meet in the basement.) Anyone interested in helping is more than welcome to attend and join in the planning of the 40th Annual “Sundae in the Park” – and, it could be the last one, unless the committee grows, since Nancy has announced this as her last year as Chair of what lately has been a three-person committee. She plans to lead the well-attended event in upper Sellwood Park again this year – and then would be available to assist in the future with contacts, techniques, steps to take, and her resource binder of notes – if it continues.

Gail Hoffnagle, Chair of the Friends of Sellwood Community Center Committee, said that the “Family Night” at the Center last Friday was a successful fundraiser for the Center; there were 28 attendees, and many more people donated, so \$500 was raised. “It was a good time.” She went on to observe that the Parks Department is apparently underfunded by \$6 million this year, and no doubt the future of the Sellwood Community Center will again hang in the balance; but it may be harder to stave off closure this year due to the size of the deficit. “Hard work will be needed to keep it open.”

Next on the agenda was SMILE Board Member, and Sellwood apartment dweller, Tyler Janzen, who arose to introduce a discussion of how to reach renters with the SMILE message. He told how he, himself, became familiar with Sellwood while attending Lewis and Clark College; and he subsequently returned to the community as an apartment renter – after joining the staff of a state legislator – and now he commutes between Sellwood and Salem.

That led into a discussion on the potential appeal of the Sellwood-Westmoreland neighborhood to renters, with other renters in attendance for this meeting actively participating.

Among the points made by renters present: This neighborhood is like a small town within the big city; Sundae in the Park is an attraction – as is Oaks Park. The renters participating apparently were generally unaware of the neighborhood association until acquainted with it by Tyler. A renter present seemed to concur: “What is a neighborhood association? What does it do? Why should I care?” The “welcome package” for renters put together by the Sellwood Moreland Business Alliance business association (in which both information on SMILE and a copy of THE BEE are included) was mentioned.

Elaine O’Keefe said she had learned that PBOT reaches renters with its advisory mailings by buying address-change requests from the U.S.P.S.; the cost of doing this is not yet known, however. There followed further discussion about ways SMILE might possibly attract interest from renters. R. Corless, Chair of the SMILE Crime Prevention Committee, remarked that she had spent time last summer visiting Sellwood apartment complexes on or near S.E. 17th Avenue, and she had concluded that many renters just are here for convenience, education, or to follow their business career.

President Joel Leib concluded the lengthy discussion by observing that, “a lot of what we’re talking about would relate just as much to homeowners, too, and not just renters.” Joel suggested keeping this topic going regularly at future meetings could start to lead to solutions.

There being no other business on the agenda, or offered from the floor, Gail Hoffnagle made a motion that the meeting be adjourned, and Kevin Palmer seconded it. The motion then passed with evident unanimity at 8:49 p.m.