SMILE General Meeting minutes
June 5, 2019
SMILE Station

Main Website: www.SellwoodMoreland.org
Procedural: www.SMILErecords.org

OFFICERS PRESENT: Tyler Janzen, President; Simon Fulford, Vice President; Pat Hainley, Treasurer; Eric Norberg, Secretary
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Elaine O’Keefe; Julie Curran; Bob Burkholder; Elizabeth Milner; Joel Leib; Rhea Smith; Gail Hoffnagle; Justin Dick

President Tyler Janzen called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m., and began by asking those present to introduce themselves, around the room. With a quorum present, Janzen asked that the minutes of the May 1 General Meeting be reviewed. A spelling correction was reported. After the review of the minutes, Simon Fulford moved the minutes be accepted as amended, Joel Leib seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Eric Trinh, a PSU student who had arrived early, and who had then helped set up the room for this meeting, spoke first — asking if he might present to those present a short survey centering on attitudes towards homelessness. President Janzen invited him to do so; a five minute period was allowed for the survey to be distributed, taken, and collected, after which Trinh thanked SMILE and departed.

Gail Hoffnagle, Chair of the Friends of Sellwood Community Center Committee, was next to speak – updating SMILE on the effort to keep the Community Center open after the Parks Department closes it on September 1. She said a lawyer has volunteered to assist in the process of taking over the Center from the city, and an Historical Restoration Contractor has agreed to do a walk-through examination and evaluation of the historic Center building. As far as staffing with current personnel goes, the problem we face is that when the city voted not to fund small Community Centers, it acknowledged that some staffers of those Centers will get new jobs with PP&R and some will not – and which are which will not be known until the end of August! Our goal is to keep programs intact as much as possible.

Julie Curran, who has been working with Gail closely on this project from the first, explained the legal requirements for preschool operation; there are many technical requirements. Gail answered questions about operation of the “substandard” building – which is on the National Historic Register, and that does confer more latitude in the matter than would otherwise be the case. We can indeed operate it as it is, but making upgrades can trigger more requirements. We are still awaiting relevant building records from the Parks Department, which we requested months ago. For those needing background, Gail recapped the Helen Hiczun bequest, the plan to use the funds, and our intent to set up a separate corporation to operate the building. The city appears ready to sell us the building for a nominal fee, but that process will take months and we will probably have to rent it
from the city at the start. Gail and Julie went on to discuss many details of the project with meeting attendees.

President Janzen announced that there will be a **Special Board Meeting** of SMILE at 7 p.m. next Wednesday evening, June 12, at SMILE Station, devoted to pursuing the matter of taking over operation of the Sellwood Community Center on September first of this year.

Next to speak was Nancy Walsh, Chair of the Sundae in the Park Committee. She recapped the 40-year history of the celebration in Sellwood Park on the first Sunday in August each year; said the lineup of entertainment and activities for this year is complete; and Gray Whalen has graciously completed the handbill/poster for the event this year. We still do need volunteers on the Committee and helping at the event itself, which is on August 4 this year. She circulated a signup sheet for volunteering.

Jim Fricia is Chair of the new Sellwood July Concerts Committee, and he arose to report that the Committee managed to raise $19,000 this year to pay for the four concerts (which appear under the PP&R “Summer Free for All” banner; the city requires $4,000 raised for each of these concerts for them to take place, through contributions and sponsorships). The concerts begin on Monday, July 8, 6:30 p.m., moving up this year from Sellwood Riverfront Park to Sellwood Park on S.E. 7th. Jim is still looking for a few more members on his committee, and he discussed all that the committee does to present these concerts each July.

Recent SMILE Board Member Kim Borcherding was present to announce her intention to form an ad-hoc SMILE “Community Connection Committee”, and invited anyone interested to consider membership on the committee.

R. Corless, Chair of the SMILE Crime Prevention Committee, was last to speak, arising to report a recent scuffle in one of our neighborhood parks involving a homeless person. The police responded quickly and handled the issue very well, in her opinion.

President Janzen concluded the meeting by announcing his decision to cancel the July 3 General Meeting, since it will occur one day before Independence Day this year and seems likely to be poorly-attended as a result.

There will be a regular SMILE Board Meeting on June 19, and again on July 17. The next General Meeting will be on August 7.

Ed Nunez moved the meeting be adjourned, and Bob Burkholder seconded the motion, when then carried with apparent unanimity at exactly 9:00 p.m.