

## **SMILE General Meeting minutes**

September 4, 2019

SMILE Station

Main Website

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Procedural

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**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Tyler Janzen, President; Simon Fulford, Vice President; Pat Hainley, Treasurer; Eric Norberg, Secretary

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Elaine O’Keefe; Julie Currin; Bob Burkholder; Joel Leib; Rhea Smith, Justin Dick

President Tyler Janzen called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and began by asking, with a quorum present, that the minutes of the August 7 General Meeting be reviewed. After the review of the minutes led to three requested corrections, Simon Fulford moved the minutes be accepted as amended, Tyler Janzen seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. Tyler then asked those present to introduce themselves, around the room.

First on the agenda were Jenny Mark, an artist, and Eric Jacobson, owner of a new apartment building being constructed on the southwest corner of S.E. 13th and Lambert. Since the building is being built right to the south lot line, by city code there are no windows on that side of the multi-story structure, and owner Jacobson wanted to improve the building’s south exposure appearance with a mural. The proposed design was shown, based upon the Camas flower observed and reported by Lewis and Clark in their expedition to Oregon. Jacobson plans to pay for the creation of the mural himself, but is hoping for an RACC grant to help with it, and is hoping for SMILE support of the project to assist in obtaining the grant. The subsequent discussion was generally supportive, although one woman present – who may have attended just to make the point, since she left shortly afterward – asked that Native Americans be involved in approving this mural, since the Camas flower is important to them. Jacobson explained the steps he and Jenny had already taken to do that. Pat Hainley made a motion that the SMILE members present express support for the mural project, to be confirmed by a letter from President Tyler Janzen, and Nancy Walsh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next to appear was David Schoellhamer, Chair of the SMILE Land Use Committee, with a presentation of historic interest on the subject of “redlining bank practices” here in the 1930s. The slide presentation incorporated maps and documents relating to Sellwood and Westmoreland, drawn from a national collection amassed by the University of Richmond. The maps were “Home Owners Loan Corporation Security Maps”, dated May 1, 1938, and the redlining at that time was generally based on racial and ethnic criteria. Schoellhamer annotated the maps and documents he showed for those present, and concluded by observing that it was yet to be established whether the maps determined the era’s loaning practices, or if then-current loaning practices were simply being mapped. He said that when racial zoning was struck down by the Supreme Court, “single family zoning” replaced it.

SMILE Board Member and Sellwood Community House Board Member Julie Currin reported on this week's startup of the Community House, to replace PP&R's Sellwood Community Center which closed last weekend. She said that preschool and after-school programs were "ready to go", and started this week elsewhere than the Community Center building, because the PP&R union contract relating to the building had extended through today, and also because PP&R wanted the new Sellwood Community House nonprofit to obtain a business license before completing the lease. Nancy Walsh said she would obtain the business license tomorrow morning, and Gail Hoffnagle expects to complete the lease signing tomorrow afternoon. This will lead to the Community House staff to enter the Community Center building this Saturday and begin cleaning and organizing, and the preschool and after-school classes will begin taking place in that building next Monday.

This week the 94 after-school registrants have been meeting at Sellwood Park, and the small number of preschool enrollees have been meeting at SMILE Station. There initially are less than a dozen preschool students, because by the time the new nonprofit could open registration for it, most of the parents had made other arrangements; but the number of enrollees should return to normal next time around.

Some Q and A on details and staffing followed. The discussion concluded with a round of applause for Nancy, Julie, and Gail, and "all who made this happen in just three months".

Joel Lieb arose to update the progress of the temporarily-reopened sale of engraved bricks in the walkway upon the SMILE front lawn. He said we had sold a few more bricks, and a few more may be sold by the announced deadline of September 13. We will still have the option, if the engraver remains available, of reopening the brick sale program again at some future time if we wish to, he added.

SMILE Crime Prevention Committee Chair R. Corless ended the SMILE General Meeting with an invitation to attend the October 2 SMILE General Meeting at which, she announced, there will be a special agenda item and speaker arranged by the Crime Prevention Committee.

With no more agenda items, or business offered from the floor, Bob Burkholder moved the meeting be adjourned, and Rhea Smith seconded the motion – which carried with evident unanimity at 8:51 p.m.