

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

October 16, 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: Bob Burkholder, Elizabeth Milner, Julie Currin, Joel Leib

President Tyler Janzen called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m., and asked for self-introductions of those present, around the room. He then requested a review of the September 18 Board Meeting minutes. After the review, Simon Fulford moved the minutes be accepted as amended (to correct a misspelling), Tyler Janzen seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

First on the agenda was Phil Richman, of TenBridge Partners, with one of his periodic reviews of the SMILE investment funds under his management. He presented the latest statement of the account (which is incorporated into these minutes by reference). He has shifted our investments to a slightly more conservative approach, since the major part of the funds under management are dedicated to the operation of the Sellwood Community House, and the money should likely be more immediately available, and thus should be less exposed to market fluctuations. In commenting on this, Nancy Walsh and Julie Currin reported that Sellwood Community House expects the tuition from the classes there to cover most operational costs, and it is not yet clear what work may be needed on the building, for which the investment funds would be required; the Portland Parks Department is still overseeing the work on the leased building until it is owned by the Friends of Sellwood Community House. Some Q and A followed with Richman over aspects of the current stock and bond market, and our portfolio.

Next was a “Code Change update” from our Southeast Uplift representative, SMILE Board Member, and Chair of the SNAC Committee, Elizabeth Milner. She said that Southeast Uplift intends to take a position on the city effort to eliminate references to neighborhood associations in the relevant city code(s); the last Board meeting, there, was, she said, “contentious”. In the SMILE Board discussion that followed, the Board consensus appeared to be that these proposed changes to the city code are unclear, and there seems to be no consistent accountability behind them – leading to some discussion of a hope for an end to the current situation in which all City Commissioners are elected “at large”, with none having accountability to any particular part of the city, as a representative. President Janzen said that unless the Board feels differently, he would like SMILE to “keep our powder dry” on this issue, and take no position on it yet, until our taking a position would actually make a difference.

The following agenda item brought Land Use Committee Chair David Schoellhamer to the front of the room, to discuss proposed SMILE testimony to the city on the matter of the “Design Overlay Zone Amendment” (DOZA). He has been invited to meet personally with the Portland Design Commission on the matter, and he plans to do so, and said he will try to represent SMILE well.

Schoellhamer displayed a large zoning map of the Sellwood-Westmoreland neighborhood: “We have a lot of Design Overlay here,” he commented – “Only our R5 zones do not have it.” He then went through the proposed testimony for the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission, concentrating on new comments, rather than those which had already been approved previously by the Board. Schoellhamer pointed out that SMILE would like the “Main Street Design Initiative”/“Portland Main Streets” incorporated into these standards as a “Main Street Overlay”. Extensive explanation of the various new testimony points followed; the Board was supportive of the testimony, and Eric Norberg moved the testimony be adopted and sent to the city from the Board. Elizabeth Milner seconded the motion, which then carried unanimously – thus approving the letter of testimony from SMILE as presented for approval by the SMILE Land Use Committee.

Next was a “Church Workgroup Update” by Simon Fulford – in review of the proposals by our marketing consultant, Christine Timberlake, for marketing Oaks Pioneer Church. Fulford pointed out that the goal of the review is to balance the maximizing of the usage of the historic building against its capacity, while considering the possible negative impacts of excess use: “We need to maximize its use in a careful way.”

The Workgroup has decided to approve separate rate structures for weekdays and weekends, and to have a “high season rate structure” and a “low season rate structure”. The Workgroup did **not** approve an all-day rental option at this time. The Workgroup also does not favor implementing all the changes at once. Approving food and alcohol by renters in the building was found **not** to be something that would offer a cost benefit for the church. The church building definitely needs an investment in sound facilities and landscaping, he said; adding that the carpets in the church (and in SMILE Station as well) are old and worn, and need to be replaced. Fulford concluded by reporting that we are “still on track for new church rental rates at the beginning of 2020”.

The final agenda item of the meeting concerned the placement of the new “Peace Pole” donated to SMILE by the Southeast Portland Rotary Club. President Janzen asked the Board about its preference for its location on SMILE Station property; he observed that the two most-suggested sites seemed to be by the enclosed SMILE bulletin board on the corner, or next to the bike racks. Nancy Walsh pointed out that bike-rack placement of the pole would encourage using it as something to lock bicycles to, thus damaging it near its base. Simon Fulford moved the Peace Pole be mounted on the corner by the Bulletin Board; Elizabeth Milner seconded the motion; and the motion carried unanimously.

With no more items on the agenda, or offered from the floor, Pat Hainley moved the meeting be adjourned; Bob Burkholder seconded the motion; and the motion carried unanimously at 9:05 p.m.