

SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2020

SMILE Station

Main Website

www.SellwoodMoreland.org

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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 Currin, Gail Hoffnagle, Rhea Smith

President Tyler Janzen called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. – and began by determining that a quorum had been attained, and requesting that the Board review the minutes of the December 18 Board meeting. After the review, Elaine O’Keefe moved that the minutes be accepted as presented, and Rhea Smith seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

David Schoellhamer, Chair of the SMILE Land Use Committee, was first to appear. He reported that the city has approved “Better Housing By Design”, and the “Residential Infill Project” (“RIP”) is next. The Land Use Committee has spent time on this project for four years, and elements of it have changed since the SMILE Board last heard about it from the committee: “The city is now implementing the new state law outlawing single family zoning throughout the state.” This would allow more housing types and more housing in all areas, and limit the overall size of buildings. There will be new building design standards.

Schoellhamer then presented, and went over in detail, new proposed testimony to the City Commissioners, seeking its adoption by the SMILE Board, with a tight deadline approaching.

The proposed testimony endorsed the proposed building size limits; supported reduced floor–area ratios on R2.5 lots; and endorsed proposal 2d. This testimony advocates reducing the threshold for an “affordability bonus” from 80% of median income to 60% or less - “any increase in zoned density should be dedicated to affordability housing”. The testimony endorses the new way building height is measured. Eric Norberg moved the Board approve and send the testimony; Pat Hainley seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously.

President Janzen went on to muse whether the advocacy of a lower affordability ratio is optimal, suggesting that such an adjustment might not make construction profitable enough for developers to build; and Elaine O’Keefe agreed that the thought had occurred to her, too. David Schoellhamer responded that those figures were proposed mainly for nonprofits involved in housing to use; “commercial developers are not interested, even at 80%,” he said. “Nonprofits are trying to get that number down as low as possible.” There followed some conversation on some of the various issues addressed in the testimony, with no further action taken.

Simon Fulford announced he wanted to recognize the great work of the Land Use Committee, advocating that SMILE should continue to push for more affordable housing in Portland. He then converted his statement into a motion, which Tyler Janzen seconded. It passed unanimously.

President Janzen brought up an intimation he had received that the Sellwood–Moreland Business Alliance wanted SMILE to assume responsibility for paying for the Comcast Internet wi-fi in SMILE Station. Eric Norberg pointed out that SMBA had originally asked to install and pay for the service for their own convenience at their monthly meetings, but had graciously shared the password with SMILE for use the rest of each month. He suggested that if SMBA no longer wants to pay for it, we should look for a cheaper and better service ourselves, such as CenturyLink’s fiber-optic Internet service – which currently offers a better price for high-speed Internet. SMILE will look into it.

SMILE Treasurer Pat Hainley had distributed the lengthy IRS Form 990 to the Board earlier in the day by e-mail, and at this point in the meeting he asked for any questions about it. A brief discussion followed, as Pat explained the requirement to file this form with the IRS. With no further questions, Pat moved that SMILE approve and submit the form. Elaine O’Keefe seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously.

Pat went on to say that Southeast Uplift is changing the rules for neighborhood cleanups (ours, in May, is the oldest annually-held such cleanup in the state). The new rule is only 12 dropboxes per carrier reimbursement (total in a year, not just for any specific cleanup). This limits participation.

Next, President Janzen discussed our mid-term election to replace two SMILE Board Members who have resigned, which will take place at our General Meeting on February 5 – and the need to develop candidates for it. There was a suggestion to postpone it a month to better obtain a diversity of candidates; but our Bylaws are specific about the election to be held at the first General Meeting after the election and openings are announced, and this will be that meeting. There seemed to be some concern that perhaps no candidates would present themselves; two SMILE Members in the room with past Board service volunteered to stand for the seats if no candidates present themselves – Nancy Walsh and Jim Friscia. With that backup plan established, the Board resolved to redouble its efforts to recruit a diversity of candidates for the upcoming election. Eric Norberg reported that the Board openings and imminent election had appeared in the December and January issues of the widely-distributed BEE newspaper, and will be reported once again in the February issue, which will be in readers’ hands before the election takes place.

Jim Friscia, Chair of the SMILE ad-hoc Summer Concerts Committee, was present to report the happy news that the fundraising obligation of the neighborhood had been reduced this year by Portland Parks and Recreation, making the financial obstacle to be overcome in continuing the July Monday Evening concert series at Sellwood Park much easier to attain – “this may result in a better concert series.”

With no other agenda items remaining, or offered from the floor, Vice President Simon Fulford moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Pat Hainley seconded the motion, which instantly passed with evident unanimity at 8:52 p.m.