

# SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2020

Via ZOOM videoconferencing

Main Website

[www.SellwoodMoreland.org](http://www.SellwoodMoreland.org)

<<>>

Procedural

[www.SMILErecords.org](http://www.SMILErecords.org)

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Elaine O’Keefe, Julie Currin, Gail Hoffnagle,  
Eriks Berzins, Priyesh Krishnan, Elizabeth Milner

*Due to social distancing measures ordered by the State of Oregon to avoid spreading the COVID-19 coronavirus, this was the first meeting of SMILE since the General Meeting of March 4, and the first Board Meeting since February 19. This meeting was conducted online using the ZOOM application, with advance notice of the meeting having been made online – advising how any interested persons could join it by requesting the admission code.*

Vice President Simon Fulford called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m., and began by asking those present to introduce themselves – several members of the public had requested the admission link, but some of them failed to join the meeting. He determined that a quorum of the Board was present, and asked that the Board review the minutes of the February 19 Board meeting. Eric Norberg noted that he had found an already fixed a typo. After the review, Elaine O’Keefe moved that the minutes be accepted, and Gail Hoffnagle seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

First to appear was David Schoellhamer, Chair of the SMILE Land Use Committee, who had previously appeared at our last in-person General Meeting on March 4 to discuss the “Main Street Guidelines” that arose from our participation in this Inner Southeast Portland business planning process. The next step, he said, is SMILE Board approval; but, he added, there is no hurry – and it would be good to approve them at an actual in-person public meeting to satisfy the City of Portland that sufficient community outreach had occurred prior to the vote of approval.

Next on the agenda was Scott Kelly, Chair of the SMILE Transportation Committee, who reported that during the current “quarantining” period, traffic is way down – there are fewer cars on the road, but much more pedestrian traffic in the neighborhood. The Committee would like the city to adjust street use to these conditions; and indeed, the PBOT has just proposed closing the three Greenways in our neighborhood to all but local auto traffic with barricades, to permit expanded bicycle and pedestrian use. PBOT would also like to close curb travel lanes on four-lane streets to permit a widening of the sidewalk area, using traffic cones, but that effort may not apply in our neighborhood. PBOT is also trying to create social distancing space at stores having lines extending onto the street.

Gail Hoffnagle asked Scott if the semi-closure plan for our Greenways on Spokane Street, Umatilla Street, and 19th Avenue would definitely be temporary, or if there is a chance the city is taking advantage of the current COVID-19 situation to make a permanent change which otherwise it would have had difficulty getting accepted. Scott replied, “They don’t say.” Carrie Leonard, a visitor to the meeting, confirmed the city plans for Greenways which Scott had described, but added that the type of barricade proposed appeared to be of a temporary type. Elaine O’Keefe commented that we should not vote on this matter until all details have been made clear. Carrie responded that the city seems to be fast-tracking this change, and it appears a decision may be forthcoming quite soon.

Simon Fulford proposed a motion that SMILE write to PBOT to say that we are here as a resource to help plan the application of these changes in our neighborhood. Elaine O’Keefe seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously.

R. Corless, Chair of the SMILE Crime Prevention Committee, made her committee report, saying that she has been working to keep our Neighborhood Watches going. She has been making contact regularly with residents and businesses in the neighborhood, and has been trying to stay on top of the COVID-19 coronavirus instructions emanating from the State of Oregon. She gave details on other matters in the neighborhood that she has been involved in.

Jim Friscia, Chair of the SMILE Summer Concerts Committee, reported that all of the city “Summer Free For All” events this summer have now been canceled, including our Monday Night Concerts in Sellwood Park in July. He asked what the status of Sundae in the Park is, on the first Sunday in August; as a member of that committee, Eric Norberg told of the last committee meeting on the subject before the quarantine period began, which saw the emergence of help in running it from the Sellwood Community House – but it is getting rather late to do what’s necessary to put it on. A modified version still be presented if the city allows it – and they are still willing to accept our permit application for it, which will go in this week. Friscia responded, “Let’s consider pooling the SMILE budgets for both the Concerts and Sundae in the Park, and put on a neighborhood event when it’s possible to do so.” The suggestion received a positive reaction from the Board.

Acting President Simon Fulford then asked the Board if there is some role for SMILE in the current COVID-19 coronavirus crisis? Priyesh Krishnan remarked that he is on the COVID-19 Committee at Kaiser Health Care, locally – but that, “The path forward is still unclear.” Elaine O’Keefe, whose daughter is on a CDC committee, remarked that, “The CDC is actively planning for a COVID-19 surge in the fall.” Carrie Leonard suggested reaching out to our State Representative for guidance; the State Legislature will meet sometime after the new Oregon Fiscal Forecast is released on May 20. An animated but general discussion followed.

Simon asked the Board about its ideas about the SMILE meeting schedule going forward. Eric Norberg suggested we should return to our established schedule, with the General Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month, and the Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month. Indeed, our first virtual General Meeting was already set for next Wednesday, May 6, on ZOOM. We will revert to live-in-person meetings as soon as the State of Oregon gives us clearance to do so, and at that time we hope to have our annual Board election. The Board approved of the plan, as articulated here, in a straw vote.

Simon told the Board that Lori Fyre reports several homeless individuals have been sleeping in front of SMILE Station for some time, and are spending more time there now that the building is mostly closed. She has asked them to go, but they persist, having figured out when she is there and being absent at those times only. This is trespassing; and their being there creates liability issues for us as well. Elaine forwarded to the Board during the discussion the e-mail address of the County Joint Office of Homeless Services (<https://multco.us/joint-office-homeless-services>).

Elizabeth Milner announced to the Board that she no longer has the time also to represent SMILE at Southeast Uplift. She asked that the Board find a new representative to replace her in the role.

Gail Hoffnagle reported that the Sellwood Community House has just received a “coronavirus loan” to help support its payroll. Then, there being no further business on the agenda or offered from the those present, Eric Norberg moved the meeting be adjourned; Pat Hainley seconded; and the motion passed unanimously at 9:12 p.m.