

# SMILE General Meeting minutes

March 4, 2020

SMILE Station

Main Website

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Procedural

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Burkholder; Elizabeth Milner; Julie Currin; Rhea Smith; Elaine O’Keefe; Priyesh Krishnan

Vice President Simon Fulford, as presiding officer, called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. He announced that one agenda item – the discussion involving those running the Willamette Center in Westmoreland – had been postponed at their request until at least the April General Meeting because of their extra efforts to address fears of the COVID-19 virus.

Then he began the meeting by asking for self-introductions around the room. After that, with a quorum not yet having been met, he asked for a review of the January minutes – pointing out that without a quorum they could not be approved at this time. If a quorum were to be attained as the meeting progressed, the minutes might then be brought up for approval; if not, their approval would be carried forward to the April General Meeting. SMILE will be announcing the May Board Election at that meeting, as well.

First to appear was Cheryl Crowe from the Brooklyn Action Corps neighborhood association – the adjacent association to SMILE’s north. She was present to discuss a neighborhood bike ride event she is proposing: The “SMILE Ride Pedalpalooza 2020” would take place in Sellwood and Westmoreland; would include a scavenger hunt; would be family-friendly; would have 3 to 5 people on each team; and would use Twitter-based communications to advance the contest. It would be about 1.5 hours long, would include no more than about 70 participants (to keep it logistically manageable), and would have contest judges and rules. She distributed a nine-page full-color proposal illustrating the concept [incorporated into these minutes by reference].

Ms. Crowe was seeking SMILE’s help – “adopting the ride” – and inquired about free use of SMILE Station for a picnic type of gathering for participants afterward. Local volunteer help would also be welcome. She plans to discuss this idea with the SMBA also, to gain business support and participation. She proposes Saturday, June 6, for the event, but could be flexible on the date. She said, however, that for good participation it should be early in June, before a welter of other bike events take place, in order to draw a good crowd. Simon Fulford said it sounded like fun, and that SMILE would no doubt like to be involved, but it was mentioned that a good (perhaps better) venue for the after-event picnic might be the Sellwood Community House. She will look into both. SMILE Station availability would depend on whether it is already booked for some other event that day, which would have to be determined.

Elizabeth Milner was next to speak – on the subject of upcoming events at Sellwood

Community House. There will be a fundraising rummage sale this Saturday, March 7th, 9 am to 2 pm. Rummage may be contributed up until the sale. There will also be an Open House on Saturday, March 14. A fundraiser for the building and its programs will be held on April 4th at the Sellwood Community House from 7 to 10 p.m. It'll be southern-gothic-themed gala called "Blackberry Winter", and will feature food donated by local restaurants, including Reverend's BBQ, A Cena Ristorante, Sunny's Pizza, and PDX Sliders. There will be wine donated by Stephen Goff Winery and the Portland Bottle Shop, a silent auction of items donated by local artists and wellness-oriented businesses, and live entertainment by the Portland Puppet Museum, Dance with Joy Studios, and in-person musicians, all for a \$25 ticket.

She reported that preschool and after-school programs there are thriving. Bob Burkholder volunteered that the Sellwood Community House is a great, comfortable, welcoming place for people in the neighborhood to meet others, enjoy the ambiance, and feel welcome.

R. Corless asked Elizabeth about precautions being taken against the COVID-19 virus in the various programs; Elizabeth said the facility is following the guidance of Portland Public Schools and the Multnomah County Health Department. "Much handwashing."

Next to appear, at their own request, were Joshua Meyers and young Ezra Cohen, who are suggesting a new "Friends of Oaks Bottom" group. The two met each other while birdwatching in Oaks Bottom, and have already met with "David" from Portland Parks and Recreation, identified as the Stewardship Coordinator for Oaks Bottom, about this – and would like the group they propose to help clean up trash in the wildlife preserve, and educate the public about nature and Oaks Bottom. The Parks Department is willing to provide literature for them to distribute in their informational efforts. The purpose of their appearance before SMILE seemed to be an effort to get the new group started and to interest others in participating. They asked nothing specific of SMILE at this point.

Vice President Fulford then suggested an informal discussion by those in the room about information on, and preventative measures to take against, the COVID-19 "corona virus" now current. He called on Bob Burkholder to discuss any possible role for our N.E.T. team; Bob agreed that in any emergency, the team would be ready to gather at SMILE Station for community service. New Board Member Priyesh Krishnan, who works for Kaiser Health Services, touched on common-sense measures being taken there.

Eric Norberg brought up the need to make a decision almost immediately on whether we would proceed with a 41st "Sundae in the Park" on the first Sunday in August; it's rather late to start planning it, but there is still time, he said – adding that he would hate to see it just peter out without being the subject of an actual SMILE decision. Nancy Walsh, who had led the committee in recent years, is overcommitted and cannot take on that role this year, but she has a binder of all the steps needed and contacts used, and would be happy to be an advisor. There was interest among those present in at least talking about it; they'll gather at SMILE Station at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11, to discuss and explore continuing this popular neighborhood tradition. Norberg said he would be part of any effort to continue it.

There being no other business remaining on the agenda or offered from the floor, Simon Fulford declared the meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.