

# SMILE Board Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2020

Via ZOOM videoconferencing

Main Website

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

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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, Bob Burkholder, Gail Hoffnagle,  
Eriks Berzins

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Miriam Erb, Vikki DeGaa, Lawrence Qumarr, David  
Schoellhamer, Shari Gilevich, Richard Noble, Karen Kelly, Susie Cunningham and a  
guest, Amrita Vatsal, Ann Scott, Heather Flint Gatto, Karen [last name not given],  
Nanci Champlin

*Due to social distancing measures ordered by the State of Oregon to avoid spreading the COVID-19 coronavirus, 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, and as noted above, a number did.*

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 joined the meeting. He determined that a quorum of the Board was present, and asked that the Board review the minutes of the April 29 “ZOOM-enabled” Board meeting, which had been previously e-mailed to the Board. After the review, Pat Hainley moved that the minutes be accepted, and Bob Burkholder seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

First on the agenda was potential adoption by the Board of a letter of recommendation in support of Sellwood Community House’s grant application. But Gail Hoffnagle reported that the grant sought turns out not to be offered this year, so there is no need for the letter.

Next was a letter of testimony proposed by the Friends of Moreland Woods subcommittee of our S.N.A.C. committee, requesting its adoption by the Board to send to the Portland Bureau of Development Services. But the letter as written was from the subcommittee, not the SMILE Board. Eric Norberg observed that if this is to be from the SMILE Board, it needs to be rewritten, and the content approved by the Board. Richard Noble defended the content of the letter. Pat Hainley said he generally agreed with Eric, but personally opposes having the Portland Memorial parking area moved onto the property north of the funeral home referred to as “Moreland Woods”. Elaine O’Keefe said that committees of SMILE should not invoke SMILE in taking positions that SMILE’s Board has not taken. Nanci Champlin attempted to reframe the matter by pointing out that the proposed position was aligned with neighborhood sentiment on the matter. Then Richard Noble explained that he wants SMILE involved in taking the position advocated by the subcommittee, in case an appeal to an adverse decision by the Bureau of Development Services is desired, since that would have benefits in reducing the cost of doing so. Simon Fulford agreed with Nanci that we could cite the neighborhood survey referred to, and the input from residents, without ourselves taking a position. Elaine asked, “The question is, is this the message we want to send?” David Schoellhamer explained that a city hearing officer is limited to criteria in the

zoning code, so we would need to be very focused to get the attention of a hearing officer, but he said he believed community input is relevant at this juncture. Simon asked, “Is it appropriate for Friends of Moreland Woods to convey its public input statistics?” David replied, “Yes.” Amrita Vatsal said that the purpose of the letter as written was to convey public sentiment. Simon mused, “What would be appropriate in a Board letter?” Elaine asked, “Could someone experienced be able to help construct a relevant letter expressing concerns which would give SMILE standing, going forward?” Simon then made a motion that Friends of Moreland Woods meet with the SMILE Land Use Committee to draft a letter for SMILE to approve; Elaine seconded; approved by the Board unanimously.

Heather Flint Gatto and Lawrence Qumarr were next on the agenda to present the Sellwood Moreland Main Street Design Guidelines for Board adoption. Lawrence summarized why SMILE had originally joined Southeast Portland’s Main Street Project. A survey of residents and businesses in our neighborhood had helped identify which design characteristics fit, and add to the neighborhood, and which do not. Together with SMILE and SMBA, they built a catalog of the input from our neighborhood, a result of contacting and speaking to people throughout the neighborhood to compose a true cross-section – in person, online, and in a variety of ways. The resulting guidelines are NOT style-specific, and focus on form and pattern. They will not reduce density or stop change, and will work within existing zoning. They are advisory, and NOT mandatory. The public in Sellwood and Westmoreland were 95% fully supportive of the guidelines. Simon moved that SMILE adopt the Sellwood Moreland Main Street Guidelines as presented, and Eric Norberg seconded the motion, after which the motion passed unanimously. Simon also proposed, in a motion, that a letter to the city to be drafted by the Land Use Committee for Board approval, encouraging the city to notify developers of these guidelines as a resource, and to publicize its availability. Pat Hainley seconded the motion, which also passed unanimously.

The annual SMILE Board Election, required by our bylaws and by the city, was to take place in May, but there was no SMILE General Meeting in May due meeting prohibitions during the COVID-19 coronavirus crisis. Eric pointed out that Southeast Uplift has provided a wide range of guidance and options for neighborhood associations to deal with this unique situation; he then e-mailed those guidelines to the Board. Elaine pointed out we need an orderly process, in harmony with our Bylaws, and wondered if we can now begin the candidate recruitment process required in advance of the election? Gail and Pat discussed difficulties and options. Beginning this process, as required in our Bylaws, means forming an Election Committee; Miriam Erb and Bob Burkholder agreed to serve on it, and Elaine suggested Priyesh Krishnan for the third member. He subsequently agreed to serve on it.

At this point in the meeting, Simon Fulford announced that the remaining items on the agenda could all be postponed for further consideration. Elaine O’Keefe remarked that Christine Timberlake had sent her a report on future bookings in the Oaks Pioneer Church, for which SMILE is the renting agent, and the bookings seem to be rising. The Board was supportive of Christine’s efforts to increase bookings, and of covering her needed expenses – specifically approving her request to buy software for the website.

Elaine O’Keefe then moved the meeting be adjourned; Pat Hainley seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously. Simon thanked all the participants, and ended the meeting at 9:01 p.m.