

SMILE General Meeting minutes

May 6, 2020

Via ZOOM, online

Main Website

www.SellwoodMoreland.org

Procedural

www.SMILErecords.org

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Gail Hoffnagle; Eriks Berzins; Julie Currin;

Elaine O’Keefe

SMILE MEMBERS ATTENDING: R. Corless, Ruth Kaser, Ed Nunez, Miriam Erb, Brenda Goffin, David Schoellhamer, Tina Osterink [*list may be incomplete; it appeared likely that a quorum was present, via Zoom*]

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Berkemeier (City of Portland)

Vice President Simon Fulford, as presiding officer, called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. He began the meeting by asking for self-introductions by those present (not all of whom were visible on the Secretary’s computer screen, so a complete record of those attending is uncertain); Fulford established to his own satisfaction that a quorum was present. He announced the meeting protocols: Please stay muted unless you want to speak, and then hold a thumb up in front of the camera on your computer to show you have raised your hand to speak, and Simon will unmute you when it is your turn to do so.

The February and March General Meeting minutes had been distributed in the e-mail sent to those requesting a hotlink to participate in this ZOOM-enabled meeting [there was no April General Meeting]; he asked for a review of the two sets of minutes. A misspelling was noted and corrected in the February minutes; the March minutes required no corrections. Elaine O’Keefe moved acceptance of the February minutes as amended and the March minutes as presented, and Simon seconded the motion, which went on to carry unanimously.

Simon Fulford next announced that the final Main Street Design for Sellwood and Westmoreland, after much public vetting by both SMILE and the Sellwood Moreland Business Alliance (SMBA) business association, would be up for adoption by the Board at its virtual May 20 meeting. David Schoellhamer will present that design on behalf of the SMILE Land Use Committee, which he Chairs, at that time.

Simon then announced that the major topic of this evening’s General Meeting would center around input from the community on “SMILE’s role in supporting the community going forward”, in this COVID-19 coronavirus crisis. Sarah Berkemeier from the Portland Office of Community Life (the former Office of Neighborhood Involvement) was present to participate in this discussion, by invitation of R. Corless, Chair of the SMILE Crime Prevention Committee. Berkemeier explained that the former Portland Crime Prevention program is now called the “Neighborhood Safety” program; training in person ended March 14, due to the Governor’s order requiring Social Distancing during the COVID-19

coronavirus crisis, but training is now being done online via ZOOM. She went on to explain that the Neighborhood Watch program is now called “Neighbors Together”. “Social Isolation Training” is now being offered virtually by her office, Sarah said, as also is the “Personal Safety Workshop”. “National Night Out” has this year been moved to the second week of October; it is unclear how that would impact SMILE’s “Sundae in the Park”, which is a NNO event; she said she would look into that.

R. Corless then reported for the SMILE Crime Prevention Committee. She said she is keeping in close contact with the Portland Police Bureau and with Office of Civic Life, and she routinely forwards any relevant information she receives from either to “everyone who needs to know”.

Ed Nunez remarked that the iconic Portland Rhododendron Garden near Reed College, although currently closed, is beautiful – and its annual fundraising Mothers’ Day Plant Sale is proceeding online.

Ruth Kaser wondered how neighborhood businesses are doing; Simon responded that many residents are supporting our local businesses, but that he had heard nothing from SMBA.

Tina Osterink, a former SMILE Board Member, told those attending the meeting that Courtney Hayes has started a relevant chat group. Simon remarked that he misses social interaction; “probably we all miss each other.” Is there any way to address that, he wondered, without putting each other at risk? Ruth Kaser said that her Condo Board has recruited volunteers from among its residents to assist those requiring it. Sarah Berkemeier suggested leaving a note on doors where visible signs may indicate that someone inside is feeling alone; a name and number should be on the note so the recipient could respond. Elaine O’Keefe advanced the idea of setting up a “text check-in network” for contact and assistance. Tina and Julie added their observation that similar types of networking are already going on in the neighborhood. There was further relevant conversation along these lines at some length.

With no more matters on the agenda, or offered from among those virtually attending the meeting, Ed Nunez moved the meeting be adjourned. Simon Fulford thanked all those attending the meeting for their participation and exchanges tonight, and then seconded the motion. The motion carried with evident unanimity at 8:53 p.m.