

# SMILE Board Candidates 2023

*(in alphabetical order, by position)*

## President

David Dugan

**Eligible:** YES

**What experience do you bring with you?**

One year as a board member and past experience on nonprofit boards.

**What are your thoughts about the neighborhood?**

Sellwood-Moreland is a wonderful, diverse neighborhood. The people and businesses are amazing. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

**Why should we vote for you?**

I bring a great deal of experience - both professional and personal - and I'm committed to working hard to continue the mission of SMILE.

## Vice President

Elizabeth Milner

**Eligible:** YES

**What experience do you bring with you?**

I have been a SMILE board member for six years, SMILE Vice President for one year and involved with SMILE in various capacities for 10 years. I have chaired the Stewardship of Natural Amenities Committee, volunteered for SMILE committees and events and have participated in liaisons with the City of Portland regarding Oaks Pioneer Church. I am invested in the Sellwood-Westmoreland neighborhood and in SMILE's role in bringing joy, connection and opportunities for meaningful civic engagement to this neighborhood.

**What are your thoughts about the neighborhood?**

I am raising two daughters in this neighborhood and love and appreciate its walkability, sense of community and natural beauty. The biggest challenge I think the neighborhood faces (and Portland in general) is affordability. To the extent

that SMILE can advocate for policies that encourage more affordable housing, I think we should do so.

**Why should we vote for you?**

I have been involved with SMILE long enough to have a deep understanding of SMILE's history and institutional knowledge of neighborhood and board issues, but I bring fresh ideas and a pragmatic, progressive perspective. I truly enjoy working with neighbors of all walks of life, even those with whom I might disagree sometimes.

## Secretary

Eric Norberg

**Eligible:** YES

**What experience do you bring with you?**

I've served on the SMILE Board for about a quarter century, most of it as Secretary. I would like to run for re-election.

**What are your thoughts about the neighborhood?**

It's a great neighborhood. After getting engaged to the woman who consented to be my wife, we went house-hunting, and found the home and the neighborhood we wanted to live the rest of our lives in -- Westmoreland.

**Why should we vote for you?**

I keep good minutes! And I enjoy serving my neighborhood by doing so.

## Treasurer

Pat Hainley

**Eligible:** YES

**What experience do you bring with you?**

Forty-five years as a practicing CPA and over 20 years as SMILE treasurer.

**What are your thoughts about the neighborhood?**

This is a great place to live and connect with one's neighbors.

**Why should we vote for you?**

I have the experience and the time to be sure the board has the information it needs to make sound decisions.

## At-Large

Tracy Wayne Fisher

**Eligible:** YES

**What experience do you bring with you?**

I am currently Director of Nutrition Services at one of the city's healthcare organizations. My career has provided me with opportunities to participate on a number of committees (both as a member and a leader) to help make improvements for both employees and customers. I've participated throughout my life on the local level in a number of political campaigns in Nebraska, Illinois, Florida and Oregon. I also helped to shape and drive the committee to bring the Gay Games to Chicago in the early 2000's, even though the bid lost. Not every endeavor ends in success. I've worked to achieve goals with those of like minds, and have also built great relationships with those who support different ideas or viewpoints.

**What are your thoughts about the neighborhood?**

The Sellwood-Moreland neighborhood is one of the best parts of the city. I'm a foodie who frequents our neighborhood restaurants and food carts several times a month. I've also promoted a handful of our small businesses on Google -- to assist those who live here as well as those who visit. There's always room for improvement and I believe that neighbors of diverse backgrounds, opinions, views and life experiences CAN come together to find ways to make our neighborhood safer, cleaner, and more enjoyable for residents and visitors alike.

**Why should we vote for you?**

I moved from Chattanooga TN to Sellwood, sight unseen, just weeks before the pandemic took hold, and have come to believe that this neighborhood is one of the city's gems--falling in love with it while much of it was shut down or struggling. I'm a renter who takes just as much pride in our neighborhood as any homeowner. I support its small businesses and events and help to ensure it's clean, and safe for others. My dog Bescha, agrees that Johnson Creek, Westmoreland and Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge are three of the best parks in

the city, and thinks we should stop and support Mud Bay every time we walk along 13th Ave, if only for the free treats & friendly greets.

## Ryan Hickey

**Eligible:** YES

### **What experience do you bring with you?**

I bring with me multiple years of Healthcare and Behavioral health leadership experience, team management, prior 501(c)3 involvement, involvement with community fundraisers, and ten plus years of hospitality experience. I was once a small business owner myself and have a great deal of respect for everything they do.

### **What are your thoughts about the neighborhood?**

I have lived in the Sellwood neighborhood with my wife for a little less than a year now and am so happy to have transitioned here. I enjoy the vibrant atmosphere and close knit neighborhood feel that Sellwood offers. It does seem like some of the neighborhood is showing signs of development and it would be great if there were a larger variety of store front options and neighborhood events.

### **Why should we vote for you?**

Due to my prior professional and avid community involvement, I believe I would be a strong addition to the board that could offer a fresh perspective and a voice for young professionals.

## Grant Huling

**Eligible:** YES

### **What experience do you bring with you?**

I have a Masters in City and Regional Planning, served for three years on the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's Community Advisory Committee, worked for two Ohio mayors, and currently navigate infrastructure investment issues as project development manager at Puttman Infrastructure, a private recycled water utility. I care deeply about homelessness, having worked for the Midwest's leading affordable housing developer and having volunteered at Transition Projects and Friends of the Carpenter. For eight years I was landlord of a Seattle mixed-use property that I successfully renovated and sold. This varied experience will help me understand the nuanced issues arising in our community and, when needed, effectively advocate for our neighborhood.

### **What are your thoughts about the neighborhood?**

Magical. One year ago, my wife Rose and I purchased our forever home, a historic Victorian near Sellwood Park. We have two children, Juno and Martin,

who are enrolled in preschool at Sellwood Community House, and who will be attending Llewellyn. I simply want to continue to meet neighbors and become more involved. I am a West Seattle native who has spent most of his adult life in Ohio and New York - sojourning that has provided perspective. I feel privileged to have settled in this special part of a special city.

**Why should we vote for you?**

With my experience in utilities, I believe I would have been able to negotiate a deal with the Bureau of Environmental Services that better shielded Sellwood homeowners from costs arising from the Sewer Extension Project.

**Ayomide Nikzi**

**Eligible:** YES

**What experience do you bring with you?**

I have over a decade lived experience of being a resident and a business owner in Sellwood. I have served as a consultant for the city of Portland for two years and currently supporting a project addressing police accountability. I also served as the Vice President of SMILE “21-22” term and currently support the SMILE events committee.

**What are your thoughts about the neighborhood?**

Sellwood is a beautiful place to live and grow. I moved here because of the music program that was in my son’s middle school. The value of the arts in this community has really given my family opportunities I never expected. I am happy to still be here now that my son is gone off to college.

**Why should we vote for you?**

If you vote for me I will continue to bring arts and culture to our neighborhood.

**Elaine O’Keefe**

**Eligible:** YES

**What experience do you bring with you?**

I’ve lived in the neighborhood since 2010 and been a SMILE Board member for the past eight years, the past year as President. I’ve been active on the Transportation Committee and until recently, been the SMILE webmaster and Chair of the Communications Committee. I also work with Nancy Walsh as a volunteer gardener at Oaks Pioneer Church.

In addition to my work with SMILE, I've been a Board member of a large westside homeowner's association and a neighborhood association, and on the Boards of the Multnomah County and Oregon Master Gardener Associations. Before retiring, I managed programs, projects, people and budgets in local government and banking.

### **What are your thoughts about the neighborhood?**

There is nowhere I'd rather live than Sellwood-Moreland. I love it for its walkability, the small shops and cafes, the gorgeous parks and my wonderful neighbors. My dog Bingo and I stroll through the neighborhood every day, rain or shine. Being involved with SMILE has allowed me to meet so many people I might not otherwise have met. It's been a wonderful experience.

Our neighborhood is growing and evolving very quickly, which can be unsettling. The SMILE Board and committees actively communicate with local government about neighborhood concerns, and try mightily to influence outcomes. But regardless of our efforts and opinions, change is inevitable. In my view the best way forward is to offer everyone — renters, homeowners, old-timers and newcomers — a voice and an opportunity to become involved.

### **Why should we vote for you?**

SMILE is unlike other neighborhood associations. We own property (the SMILE Station), manage two rental properties (SMILE Station and Oaks Pioneer Church), have employees and investments. Like other small businesses, our operations have been challenged by COVID restrictions. In addition, we've recently been hit with several significant costs for repairs to our properties. If elected my highest priority will be SMILE's business operations, which support all of our neighborhood programs.

Another priority will be to continue the excellent work that the Board started last year to define SMILE's organizational values. Our next step is to translate those values statements into concrete actions and policies so that our efforts truly reflect who we aspire to be. To be successful, we must continue our work to make SMILE accessible, inclusive and equitable for all of our residents.

We are so fortunate that neighborhood volunteers from decades past had the foresight to procure the SMILE Station, save the Sellwood Community House, create a revenue stream that supports neighborhood activities, and amass a healthy rainy day fund. We must honor those volunteers by managing our

resources so that Sellwood-Moreland residents can enjoy them for years to come. I see this as the highest responsibility of the SMILE Board.

## Carol Trekas

**Eligible:** YES

### **What experience do you bring with you?**

I've been in the neighborhood since 1980 and own my home and I'm a neighborhood watch captain. I've worked at Sellwood Middle School. I've been on many committees with SMILE in the past. Also was involved with the PTAs at Llewellyn and Sellwood and Cleveland Schools. I'm retired now and can bring many life experiences professionally and privately to SMILE.

### **What are your thoughts about the neighborhood?**

I've seen our neighborhood change through the years and would like the opportunity to help it be the best it can be. I love Westmoreland.

### **Why should we vote for you?**

Because I'm a disabled person and would like to see more inclusiveness in SMILE for all abilities. Since I've lived here since 1980 I think I can bring great ideas as well as experience to SMILE. Plus my husband just retired from Oaks Amusement Park and I can give you ideas about security as he was their security officer. I remember when the SMILE station was the fire station and when Sellwood Community House was Sellwood Community Center.