

St Johns Booster General Meeting

Minutes – January 20, 2016

Call to Order at 7:25 am at the John Street Café – 20 participants

Introductions of attendees

Roll call of Board Members: Mike, Nancy, Mary Ann, Beth, Christina, Kert
Derek excused absence

Minutes from last meeting — Discussion of new board, discussion of membership, discussion and vote on new meeting venue, time and date. General meetings will be on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:15 AM at the John Street Café. All welcome.

Question from Kert—What qualifies a person to be a Booster?
Mike will answer as we move further down the agenda.

Staff Reports:

Finance: Reported by Mike Johnson

Mike reported about 4 accounts in the Albina Bank. One account has \$2700 and the other 3 about \$10,000. Over \$12,000 has been used for the lights in downtown St Johns. See Operations committee report.

Operations/all things physical: Reported by Mike Johnson

- Plaza: maintenance and use scheduling.
- Tree lighting: Obtained a 3 year permit from the City. Lit 38 trees this year. Will need maintenance that will have a cost. Problem keeping some of the trees lit due to faulty GFI outlets. Need the property owners to replace.
- Signs/ 3 Marquees: priority will be given to business district for the coming year. Boosters are concerned about the impact of construction/ road closures. Need to raise money to replace manual letter placement with computer generated signs. It is very difficult to change the letters and can be very wet in the rain.

Jenny Levy brought up the thought of downtown street lights that could also have a place to plug in the tree lights, a future project possibility.

IT/ communications: Reported by Mary Ann

Mary Ann talked about the new website– stjohnsboosters.org– that was partially funded by a Venture Portland grant. A business can download the member application form. At this time there is free advertising space at the top of the page so contact Mary Ann. A photographer will be taking photographs of businesses to post on the website.

Promotions/events: Reported by Beth and Kert

Beth and Kert reported on “Night on the Town”. This is event is always the weekend before Thanksgiving to kick off the holiday shopping season. 59 businesses participated this year including Big Kahuna’s BBQ & Catering and Kruger’s Farm Market. Attendees got their passports stamped and were entered in the drawing for a gift basket (10 in all). The event was continued through Saturday to give attendees

time to extend their shopping as far as Richmond and more. Considering having the event twice a year and extending the reach to outer St Johns is now in discussion.

Old Business:

Mike Johnson explained the structure of the Board for 2016:

Mike–Chair, Nancy–Secretary, Derek–Treasurer, Mary Ann–IT/Communications, Kert, Beth, Christina Members at Large.

Committees:

- Operations
- Fund Raising
- Membership
- Promotions/Events

Jenny Levy suggested an environmental component be added to Operations or other committee.

Membership qualifications:

- Must be involved in business or non–profit
- Can own, operate or represent a business or non–profit or be an appointed delegate
- Boosters is for promoting business in St Johns. The community already has a great neighborhood organization and Main Street Org if non–business people are interested in getting involved.
- Applications on the website, membership fee is \$50 a year (from Jan through Dec)
- Privileges—host your business on the website/some free advertizing/voting rights/networking

New Business:

Community Activities:

- **Main Street** is working on restarting the St Johns Foot Patrol. If you want to walk through your neighborhood reporting suspicious activity, get in touch.
- **Superfund:** There will be a Harbor Superfund forum at the St Johns Community Center on Tuesday, Jan 26 from 7:00–9:00 PM. This is a very important meeting as decisions will be made about St Johns future.
- **Volunteer Fair:** The fair will be on Thursday, Feb 4 from 6:00–8:00 PM at Los Prados Event Hall, 10105 N Lombard St, Portland, OR 97203. There will be activities for children. Looking for a volunteer idea or for volunteers, join us.
- **Business Mixers:** Main Street business mixer will be Weds, Jan 20 at the Art of Stem, 7425 N Leavitt, from 7:00–9:00 PM. Next mixer is in Feb at Rock n' Roo. Check the Main Street website for a list of events.

Brass Tacts Deli will be presenting Israeli food for the next 6 weeks. Breakfast and lunch will be served Thursday through Monday.

Venture Portland: Mary Ann represents St Johns Boosters on Venture Portland. There is a coming promotion #pdxlovessmallbiz. Take a picture of yourself (a selfie) in front of your favorite business between Feb 1 and April 25. Send to the # listed and hope to win. Check their website.

Venture Portland lobbies for small businesses, offers resources, gives grants, helps small businesses work with the City gov.

Guest Speaker:

Ruth Miles, Small Business Advocate, Office of Small Business Assistance.

Ruth.p.miles@state.or.us

503-986-2166 or 844-469-5512

sus.oregon.gov/BusinessSOS

Help for small businesses. Help to solve problems. Help with licensing and certification.

New office opened in 2014.

First solve the businesses problem. Second is it a systemic problem of the agency involved. Third report back changes needed.

Contact Ruth if you need help. She runs with scissors.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 AM

Minutes presented by Nancy Arvesen, Jan 20, 2016