

General Meeting– St Johns Business Boosters

March 16, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:24 AM

Board present: Mike Johnson, Derek Shaw, Kert Wright, Beth Preciso, Mary Ann Aschenbrenner, Cristina Morina, Nancy Arvesen

Minutes held until the next meeting.

Introductions: 21 attendees

Beverages supplied by Timmco Insurance/ thanks Greg Bair

Signup sheets passes: one for Boosters/ one for
stjohnsforwardprogress@gmail.com

Treasure's Report: Derek Shaw

Albina Bank– \$1793.48

CD: \$32,000

Other: \$92.00

IT Report: Mary Ann Aschenbrenner

Mary Ann gave out St Johns Boosters clingy, see through stickers for members to put on their business windows.

Explained Venture Portland's program– take a selfie in front of your favorite business and win a prize. Mary Ann showed how to correctly take a selfie (45% angle above head) and took one of the entire group at Johns Street Café.

Boosters are working on joining the Portland Business Alliance. It means that all members of the Boosters can attend any PBA events. It is a networking opportunity.

Boosters ran their own event for most liked business in St Johns and The Man's Shop won.

Boosters now have an Instagram account. Seth from Two Stroke Coffee will be the Boosters mentor for Instagram.

Please allow Deanna to come to your business and take a picture for the website. You can also link your business site to Boosters website.

Why should someone become a Booster?

- Boosters advocate for business in area
- Power to promote and defend the business district
- Website will pick up with more use and be top of the list when Googled
- Celebrating 90 years, second oldest business organization in Portland

Promotions and Events: Beth and Kert

Both members attended a Venture PDX seminar on street fairs and events. They are looking forward to sharing what they learned with Patti and Shamus.

They also attended the N Portland Gathering, facilitated by Mike Verbout.

Thought the meeting was well organized and fun. Amanda Fritz always attends. The meetings are quarterly with the next one being in June.

Beth is working with Mark Wells to have a Business Watch meeting at the Community Center hopefully in the next month. Mark can help with ideas about crime issues and to create a business phone tree.

Kert spoke about the Business District Relations committee. Denny Hassler is the chair. Denny worked at the Man's shop in high school and is helping out in his retirement. For over 25 years he was a contractor so is well qualified to handle these communications. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the committee at stjohnsforwardprogress@gmail.com.

Construction on the corner of Lombard and Charleston could start anytime. There is a sign on the bus stop on Lombard that it will be vacated on April 11 until the Fall of 2017. Kert met with the owners and Dana from the Colony about the placement of her sign and the marquee. She was hoping some of the trees would be saved but construction folks spoke of pavers and planters. Main Street will be removing plants from Ivy Island on Sunday, March 20. The plants will go to the St Johns Plaza and Sitton School. Kert thanked Main Street for keeping the area clean.

Saying carefully that she had no confirmation, Kert allowed that the construction crews said they would be using the slip lane for staging and the street would be closed for 15 months. She needs confirmation on estimated start date, confirmed closure date and time estimate, St Johns parade route. We want to know about traffic control during construction and the rerouting of Trimet. Denny is in touch with the architect who the City has required to erect a sign saying businesses are open in St Johns. We want input as the verbiage of the sign.

Shamus, who is the chair for the St Johns Bizarre, met with the owner of the Central Hotel who is the wife of the Union at St Johns owner. He wanted to know about access for his event and was told that it was possible. He also directed the owner to the parade committee. They met with Barbara Legge, saying they would work to have the route open for the parade and provide some bleachers and port-a-potties.

Kert explained a little about signage for the area. We need to have a say in what the signs provided will say.

There is about 21 million dollars allocated to be spent on this area so the Boosters need to have say about business needs. Contact elected officials about our needs. Shamus recommended that we need to discover where our time and energy will be best spent. What will give us the greatest advocacy with PDC.

The construction at the corner of Lombard and Charleston is only one project in the area. There are many others so we need to get a handle on communicating with the City, the owners and the construction people.

St Johns is not a registered historic district. Kert talked to ODOT about this process and it is not allowed as Lombard is a state highway.

Greg Bair spoke for Timmco Insurance about supporting the Roosevelt Women's Scholarship fund. Sending customers to Greg will prompt Timmco to give to the fund. And thanks Timmco for this morning's beverages.

Guest Speaker– David James Robinson, Attorney; New laws for Oregon Employers

1. Ban the box; no criminal history questions can be asked on an employment application. No criminal history questions can be asked during an interview session for employment. Only ask when you are offering the job.
2. Change in non-competition agreements: will not be able to have them after about 18 months. Cannot change an employment agreement unless a raise or promotion of some kind is offered. Can have a non-solicitation agreement that says person will not call on companies clients list in such and such a scope for such and such a time period.
3. New mandatory sick leave: If you have 6 employees in Portland and 10 employees or more in Oregon, all employees must accrue sick time.
4. Wage transparency: employees are allowed to ask about their own or other employees wages. There can be no retaliation for asking the questions. Employees are allowed to know if someone is getting a different wage for working the same job.
5. Marijuana: If you have a policy, there is no requirement for you to change it at this time.
6. Minimum wage changes: There will be an incremental increase starting July 1, 2016 with \$9.75, increasing to \$14.75 by July of 2022.
7. Tip pooling: There is a possible change that will not allow non-tip staff to be part of the pool. Paying wait staff and non-tip staff less than minimum wage is not allowed in Oregon.

There is also speculation that the US Dept of Labor will set a minimum salary amount for exempt staff starting in Nov. Could be \$970 a week?

When asked about the paper work for sick leave accrual and such, David recommended hiring a good bookkeeping company, too much work and too complicated. Need to decide what your time is worth. He also mentioned that there may be a training wage for new employees– speculation also.

New Business:

Need new and willingly active members. Boosters need to raise money for the tree lighting. We need help with grant writing. Encourage business owners to join and actively participate.

April 23 will be the spring clean up in St Johns. Join the St Johns Neighborhood Association at the Bachelor's Club from 10:00–3:00 and make our small town sparkle.

Remember the better we communicate and work together the stronger our community will be.

Next meeting is April 20th at 7:15 AM at the Johns Street Café.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Arvesen