

St. Johns Boosters General Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2016

Mike called the meeting to order at 7:25 AM.

Board roll call: Mike Johnson, Mary Ann Aschenbrenner, Kert Wright, Beth Preciso, Cristina Marino

Excused Absence: Nancy Arveson

Also Absent: Derek Shaw

Introductions: All attendees introduction

Past Meeting Minutes: Cristina asked to correct the spelling of her last name. Mary Ann motioned to approve the minutes. Matt Richards seconded. Passed.

Staff Reports:

Treasurer:

Mike gave the report that the bank accounts are unchanged from the last meeting. The Board approved a move of \$1,000 from Albina Bank to US Bank, which is used for operating funds.

Operations:

Jean Schwatz joined Matt Richards in volunteering to help with the marquee signs. Mary Ann will give both access to the marquee calendar.

Communications and IT:

Mary Ann will be attending the Venture Portland training today about how to develop the physical look and feel of your district.

She also announced a free event for those interested in starting a nonprofit scheduled for May 4th.

National Small Business Week is May 1 – 7. We have ordered personalized signs for members in our business district and will be writing a letter to the editor of the St. Johns Review to promote shopping local.

Membership:

Membership continues to grow with 23 members currently.

Business District Relations:

Beth reported that this committee met with the developer on April 5th about moving the marquee sign located on Lombard at Richmond. It will be moved north from "ivy island" to where the sidewalk is now and will be located behind a construction fence. Updating this sign will require the volunteers who update the marquees to coordinate with the construction crew, at least for the next 15 months. After the construction it will be located on the right-away of the new plaza.

We are trying to find out who is paying for the electrical use of the marquee signs.

The developer has agreed to add three signs to direct people into the business district: Corner of Richmond and Lombard, Fixin-to fence along Lombard, and NE corner of N Charleston and N Ivanhoe in the McMinimans Parking Lot. Additionally, the developer will give us two sandwich boards to move around as necessary.

Kert reported that we have set up a gmail account at St. Johns Forward Progress to keep everyone informed about detours, road closures, etc. A signup sheet was available.

The slip lane will close on Friday.

Three maps were passed around showing the pedestrian crossings, detours set up around the construction, and where the detour signs will be put up.

Denny Hassler suggested we all refrain from the rumor mill and maintain good relations with the developers.

Promotions:

Kert gave the report from the evening crime prevention meeting that included the admonition to "Report all Crime." Information and flyers on crime prevention were passed out. Regarding setting up a business watch, one block at a time is manageable. Kert has purchased static cling stickers at \$2.00 each that announce that a Business Watch is in place. Members purchased these stickers and some took business watch handouts.

Unfinished Business:

The clock motor that was ordered for the clock does not fit. We will need to lift up the clock head and insert the motor from the top. At this point we have been out \$800.00 and about 20 hours of volunteer time.

Guest Presentations:

Members Rachel Jones and Matt Richards talked about their businesses and why they got started in their businesses. Rachel owns Club Sky High, the Glass Gallery, and Sky High Garden Supply and Hydroponics. Matt owns Nature's Pet Market.

Rachel got started while trying to find quality marijuana to use as medication for pain for family members. She was one of the original medical marijuana license holders in Portland. The business has grown and now they also offer products for growers. Her industry is heavily regulated.

Matt and his wife were looking for business opportunities after the economic downturn. Nature's Pet was originally a Lake Oswego business that grew into franchises across the country. In addition to pet toys and quality pet food, they offer grooming services. Their groomer, Penny, has 28 years of experience and they were fortunate to be able to hire her when the place she was working moved.

New Business:

Margie Smith from the Cathedral Park Jazz Festival and Jazz Society of Oregon invited the Boosters to host a free booth at the festival July 15 - 17. The booth would be an opportunity to promote St. Johns businesses to the festival attendees. We will discuss this opportunity at the next board meeting.

Mike reported on the bylaws update. Because our current bylaws require that we begin bylaw changes in March, however, the board only began drafting an update of the bylaws this month. Mary Ann motioned to extend the bylaws updating for 30 days. Beth seconded the motion. Passed. We will email a PDF of the drafted bylaws and a link to the current bylaws for members to review.

Kert reported that there is a St. Johns Business Owners Forum page for people with storefront businesses in St. Johns.

Mike reported that volunteers are needed for the following:

- Research and find out who is paying for electricity to the marquee signs

- Board Members
- Trees and lighting
- Marquee messages – Jean Schwatz volunteered, Matt has volunteered previously.
- Write grants – Rachel volunteered her daughter who will be home from college in two weeks. Jennifer Levy also volunteered her office manager to help edit the grant applications. Chris Hochstatter let us know about the **Oregon Foundation Data Book** available at the St. Johns Library. It has a complete list of grants available.

Other New Business:

Melissa Bartoszewski reminded us of the neighborhood cleanup on Saturday from 10 – 4. Check the website event calendar for details.

KarenJean Lumborg invited us to the grand re-opening of St. Johns Food Share (formerly Golden Harvesters) on June 4th.

Cristina invited us to enjoy music after the cleanup at the U of P Mago Hunt Recital Hall.

Timmco Insurance is still donating \$10.00 to a scholarship program for every insurance referral.

Albina community bank has commercial real estate loans available for 3.3%.

Meeting Closed at 8:57 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Ann Aschenbrenner.