

St Johns Business Boosters General Meeting

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Call to order

Introductions

Board members present: Mike Johnson, Beth Preciso, Mary Ann Aschenbrenner, Cristina Marino, Risa Davis, Nancy Arvesen

Minutes from the February meeting were discussed and approved.

Motion by Mary Ann Aschenbrenner. Seconded by Liz Smith.

It Report: Mary Ann Aschenbrenner

What is a B Corps- B Corps are for-profit companies certified by the nonprofit B Lab to meet rigorous standards of social and environmental performance, accountability, and transparency.

Venture Portland has a survey on their website that a business can take to find out about B Corps. If you wish to become a B Corps, folks at Venture Portland can help. The City would like businesses to take this survey so that they have an idea how businesses feel about this. Venture PDX is helping them to find out.

City Hall would like everyone to designate single stall restrooms as gender neutral using the signage they show online.



Venture PDX is also sponsoring Portland Celebrates Small again this year. Take your picture in front of your favorite small business and put it on social media. There will be winners.

There are two trainings coming soon. Deanna Cantrell will be attending the Branding training on March 22. Would anyone be interested in attending the Self-sustaining Events training on April 6 from 8:30-11:30 AM?

Are you interested in making new contacts, sharing ideas, learning another way to do business, etc.? If you have a desire to grow your business acumen, then you may be interested in joining the board of Venture Portland. Mary Ann Aschenbrenner has been on the Board for two years and is never without something positive to say about the organization. She would be happy to help others through the application process. First meeting is April 24 from 6:00-8:00 PM and includes dinner.

Membership: Risa Davis (heck yeah)

Working on membership drive, brochures will be out soon, needs volunteers to visit all the businesses in the area.

Working on the networking meetings for the first Weds of each month so small business owners can share information, ideas.

Risa is working with Restore Oregon to save some of the historical housing in the area.

Parade is doing well but still needs to raise more money. Please talk up the importance of this long time St Johns event.

Speakers:

Carmen Madrid represents MESO(Micro Enterprise Service of Oregon) program and will be at the St Johns Center for Opportunity every Thursday helping clients (by appointment). The help is customized to each person/businesses needs. Help with grants, loans, licensing, assets, planning, etc.

cmadrid@mesopdx.org

503-841-3351

David James Robinson explained some of the unfunded mandates that the government is making into law. He can help. Davidjamesrobinson@gmail.com
Spoke about the Edelman Trust Barometer. Find it online.

Center for Opportunity events:

Biz Mob at Two Stroke at the carts on April 20

Speakeasy will be April 22 at the Bachelor's Club (come and find out)

Farmers' Market opens May 20

St Johns Parade is May 13

Bizarre is May 13 - more street closures and more booths this year.

Friends of the Baltimore Woods annual plant sale is March 25.

Submitted by Nancy Arvesen