

**St. Johns Neighborhood Association  
General Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 14th 7:00 p.m. St. Johns Community Center  
Minutes by Crystal Glanz-Kreutz, Secretary**

Board Members present: Emilie Saks-Webb, Jen Levy, Justin Sundling, Ben Poe, Crystal Glanz-Kreutz, Adam Robins, Jason Moos, Joe Adamski, Babs Adamski, David Green and Shamus Lynsky. Eighteen citizens were in attendance, as well as two police officers.

7:08 pm- The meeting is called to order.

Review of March General Meeting Minutes. Shamus moves to approve with change noted. Joe seconds. There is unanimous voice approval.

ODOT- Lombard pedestrian crossing discussion. David Kim of ODOT and Lindsay who is an ODOT design team leader address the group and ask for project feedback. Background: SJNA contacted ODOT regarding use and safety on a section of Lombard. ODOT studied the traffic volumes, safety, etc. The project focuses on improvements to Mohawk, Tyler and Polk. The intersection of Burr is under consideration as well, with the recent additions of businesses (food carts), but there is only enough funding for improvements at three intersections. The project looks at ADA access, curb bump-outs, light fixtures (LED) and at Tyler, drainage. So far ODOT has secured funds, created the design schedule, made agreements with the City of Portland and has spoken with the freight and trucking industry. They have identified possible utility conflicts and developed construction plans. As for the funding issue: drainage (pipes, etc) are costly. There is only money for improvements to three, not four intersections. But, they will be keeping an eye on the area. ODOT is traditionally reactive in their road improvements, but here in St. Johns they are being proactive in their plans. Improvements are set for Polk and Tyler. Burr and Mohawk are either one or the other. ODOT is asking for our feedback.

Emilie suggests that Burr be updated. Lindsay adds some details- Mohawk has newer concrete and permanent businesses; it's a 25 MPH zone. Burr is older concrete, a 35 MPH zone and needs improvement to its drainage. Mohawk has good drainage. Burr is nearer to RHS and has mobile businesses. We need to make a decision in order to secure a construction crew. The project projection is to start late summer and finish in the fall of 2014. Joe mentions visibility, speed and parking at the Burr, he asks about what the trucking industry thinks. ODOT consulted the trucking industry; the planned changes are ok by them. Shamus asks about bump-out size. They'll be partial size, not full. Shamus questions why they won't be full sized, for visibility, especially since it won't impact trucking in the area. ODOT states that there is concern of sight-lines. How to solve the issue; need to consult the City of Portland about parking. Question: How can SJNA impact the decision? That's TBD. Question: How about adjusting the speed in the corridor from 35 to 25 MPH? Answer: That would require a survey and approval- it's a process. The point is made that the speed may be dropped once there are more pedestrians in the area, after the cross walks are improved.

Babs asks if ODOT will advise citizens re: standards/ rules about road sharing for pedestrians and motorists. Answer: Yes. ODOT does outreach, primarily when linked with projects. Can also be with new laws, such as texting issues. ODOT can hand off fliers/ brochures at local businesses. Jen urges a vote on which road will be improved. Mohawk = 0, Burr = a unanimous yes.

Jen mentions that we'll continue searching for the funds to improve Mohawk later. Babs asks, does ODOT plan to improve Lombard so that the City of Portland can take it over? Are the budgeted plans? Answer: Not at this time. Adam thanks ODOT for being proactive. Jen summarizes: Look at the budget, watch speed in the area, and improve community communication.

Officers address the group, any questions? Regarding the search warrants on Columbia- no information other than that there were lots of search warrants given. Babs- were many of the vehicles involved from our area? Answer: Some, but certainly not just from around here. Babs- how many agencies were involved? Answer: Nine agencies were involved. The officer mentions that there are flaws in Oregon regarding scrapping vehicles. Regarding Bridge Avenue- there have been improvements all around. Question: What is the homeless population in St. Johns? Answer: Regulars, by best guess, are about 30 (that the officer talks to for one reason or another). There will be more as the river level drops and more camping arrives. Follow up question: Do you have a place that you send them to and how many emergency (health care related) calls? Answer: Yes, we refer them to shelters, every PPP officer carries a resource sheet on their person. Many aren't interested, but officers do carry info to share. Portland doesn't have enough space for every homeless person to stay. Medical emergency calls are on a daily basis, on average of 4-5 calls in the St. Johns/University of Portland/ peninsula area.

Executives from International Raw Materials (IRM), a Port of Portland tenant, will be adding to their existing liquid bulk handling operation at Terminal 4 this spring. Tim and Carrie from IRM present. IRM is a privately held company since 1979, it handles industrial products, has operations worldwide and handles a number of commodities. IRM has been at Terminal 4 (T4) since 1996. They carry chemicals & fertilizers there. They are looking to operate as a transfer station, moving sulfuric acid from railways to trucks. IRM operates as a marketing agent for a company in Canada who moves this product. Currently, IRM is designing a site at T4 with environmental consultants. IRM has received two awards from the Port of Portland for shipments without issue. They feel that handling hazardous products safely is important for both their employees and the local residents.

Joe- Are there any other industrial products other than sulfuric acids? Answer: Propylene Glycol, Sulfonate; however, no tier 1 chemicals. They are all stored in rail cars, nothing is placed on the water- no barges or ships. Joe- How many trucks? Answer: 5-10 trucks per day, primarily by Columbia blvd, about 40-50% will travel through St. Johns and over the St. Johns Bridge. Question: Sulfuric acid is coming from Canada by rail, then placed onto trucks here in St. Johns, where does it go after that? Answer: Paper plants and agriculture, primarily. Question: Is anyone else in the area doing this? Answer: Yes, three others in the Portland area. One nearby, one on Hwy 30 and one in Sherwood. Question: is there an issue of contamination if spilled? Answer: Physical contact is the only issue, it's not airborne. Question: Are you notifying us of this change or asking us if you can do this? Answer: Notifying. We're working with the Port of Portland to follow all rules and regulations. Question: What about earthquake safety, any concerns over water/soil contamination then? Answer: Working with environmental consultants... there will be a limestone base to neutralize. Chemicals in the water/river are bad. The site location is crucial to keep it away from the river for remediation by their company and not to drift.

More information is available at [www.irmteam.com](http://www.irmteam.com)

Mike Withey, et al. presenting their plans for "Micro-Communities" and their "Neighborhood Support Center." This is their answer to St. Johns housing/homeless issue. Mike would like to build low-income micro housing without government money. He says it will save money overall. Mike is a homeless advocate. His solution costs about \$10,000 per unit for the structure only. He sees flaws in the 10 year plan to end homelessness, as money is spent on other projects. Mike did a presentation of his idea at a Human Rights meeting, as well as at the Lents community meeting. He states that Lents loved the idea and that they are working on a plan and financing. He wants to create a demo house as a visual aide. He's looking for community support because these will be in the neighborhoods. The Model is to meet everyone's needs, both for at risk folks and for the community members. Income required would be \$250/ month. Most homeless / displaced people have an income of some amount through SSI, etc. Many are on a fixed income or disability. Mike sees possibilities for community gardens and solar systems. He wants the community to benefit, wants to avoid LLC or private company status (overhead), he wants an area close to the downtown core. Jen mentions that the cost of real

estate in downtown St. Johns is the most expensive that we have. Mike agrees and states that these will likely not be built downtown. In Lents, they are trying to buy a lot that currently has a house on it. He is looking for community support before going too far.

Dave went to RHS, knows a lot about local issues, poverty and homelessness. He speaks about a company called "Home First", it costs \$70,000 per door, has an MFI of 50% (\$600/month to rent) and a number of homes. We have a number of people who earn less than \$20,000 per year- so there is a need for low cost housing. Other elements of the project include sending homes to Haiti and the Philippines. Their organization took the project to Amanda Fritz to check it against codes and potential issues. Each home contains a kitchenette and a bathroom. They are built by panel system, with a steel frame. They take 2-3 days to build and are pre-fab in a sense. They meet hurricane (Dade County) standards. Dave states that the design is a viable building concept based on its structural integrity.

Joe- Is this considered an ADU, as far as Portland zoning and codes are concerned? Answer: Churches can place them on their properties as ADU's. Some places will allow them as built without issue. The units aren't necessarily transferable, but they can be moved if need be, dismantled and rebuilt as needed. Question: What are you asking for? Answer: An SJNA liaison to filter emails and offer feedback. To summarize: they are looking for community support to avoid potential issues down the road.

#### Announcements:

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 5-6:30pm There will be an Open House for James John re: bond work to be done this summer. There will be a mailer as well. Project includes seismic and accessibility improvements. RHS will have an Open House soon, date/details to be determined.

SALT committee updates- A Safety and Livability Team is forming. Ben and Babs are creating a group to address issues across the neighborhood. They are hoping to extend into Cathedral Park as well. There will be a monthly meeting, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. The first meeting will be held on Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm at the St. Johns Community Center. Announcements will be sent via email and Facebook. There are 13 people so far, Babs hopes to work with Angela Wagnon as well. They recently met with businesses re: Portland Police and a land area to resolve an issue. Safety and Livability covers crime, graffiti, the creation of block parties, fosters safety, self defense, etc. It is a forum for concerns and to address them. CFAS and AF meeting is at the same time, they're sending a representative to the SALT meeting. The SALT committee is for ALL of St. Johns.

Kelly Guess with Trash to Treasure- Kelly is the event coordinator for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Trash to Treasure event. They have updated recycling info regarding their Total Reclaim partnership. There will be a \$5/lb charge for industrial battery recycling. They are accepting bags, film, Styrofoam, lamps and mechanical elements too. There will be some learning tables, reclaimed art, permaculture, etc. Adam- what about televisions? Answer: No consoles (cabinets), working ones are ok for the swap, others are ok to recycle. Justin- Are you looking for volunteers? Answer: Yes! Head to [swapnplay.org](http://swapnplay.org) to sign up.

SJNA Participation in parade? Question: Is there a cost associated? Answer: No. We have until May 1<sup>st</sup> to register.

SJ Bizarre, Shamus- Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. The Bizarre will start at 10:30am. There is a full music line-up, 70 vendors, a kid's creation station, magician, comedians, contests, bike repairs and more. The Port of Portland, University of Portland and SJNA are all big sponsors of the event. They are looking for volunteers.

Shamus makes the announcement that the non-profits of St. Johns met about one month ago regarding a shared resource bank. They are applying for grants to invest in supplies. This will save money on rentals for the neighborhood groups. It is tentatively called the St. Johns Equipment Bank.

Rick Weber, owner of Fourth Estate Coffee House, which opened about 6 months ago, is applying for a full OLCC permit. Fourth Estate is open from 6:30am-8pm seven days a week. They have received customer feedback that it would be nice if they could offer mimosas/bloody marys/ etc. with their breakfast and brunch. Fourth Estate is on Burlington, at 7373 N. Burlington, next to Barrique Barrel. Every employee, including the owner, lives and works in St. Johns; they keep it local. Personally, Rick has been in the restaurant industry for 15+ years and he knows the OLCC regulations. He will also be taking an OLCC law class. Fourth Estate will not be changing their hours, they won't be throwing parties- there will be no funny business. They just want to offer a good bite to eat and drinks. Joe asks- are you familiar with good neighbor agreements? Answer: Yes, and I would like Fourth Estate to enter into a good neighbor agreement with the SJNA.

Jen announces that the SJNA has written a letter of support for Slims, to be sent to the OLCC and that the SJNA and Slims will be drafting a good neighbor agreement.

St. Johns Cash Mob- Friday, 4/25, at 7pm, Pinwheel and Southern Belles are to be mobbed. Reminder- please bring cash, \$20 suggested purchasing amount. Support small & local businesses.

Shamus- The Gentrification forum will be held soon, hopefully at the end of May. Speakers are being confirmed.

Jason- Treasury Report: \$3,272.84 in the general fund. \$1,898.31 in the art fund. There will be some more money transferred soon. Babs and Jason are working on it. There is about \$1,000 in bills for the Winter Social that need to be covered. There is also about \$2,000 to be received from the North Portland community works that will be distributed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.