

SJNA General Meeting
February 24th, 2014 St. Johns Community Center
Minutes by Crystal Glanz-Kreutz, Secretary, SJNA

Board Members present: Emilie Saks-Webb, Jen Levy, Babs Adamski, Justin Sundling, Ben Poe, Crystal Glanz-Kreutz, Adam Robins, David Green and Shamus Lynsky. Nineteen citizens were in attendance.

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Emilie. Introductions were skipped this meeting.

November and January minutes were reviewed. There was one date correction noted on the January minutes. Ruth Lane moved to approve both minutes with changes noted. The motion was seconded and voice approval was unanimous.

Land Use/ NPLUG- There were no new land use issues. The NPLUG lead is leaving; a new person will step in soon.

Transportation Budget Advisory Committee- Through the City of Portland, North Portland has no representation on this committee. Steve Novick and others have been attending neighborhood association meetings but none in North Portland so far. Shamus would like to see SJNA get a liaison. Joe suggests utilizing the St. Johns Facebook page to get a person. SJNA needs to touch base with Tom Griffin-Valade as so far the whole NPNS area is without representation.

RHS Redesign Workshop- Ben Poe discussed the growing role of technology in education and the issue of focus and funding. There is a wide discussion over the role of CTE (Career and Technical Education) in the RHS redesign. Considerations: Space available, student and instructor input. Community meetings are to be announced. On March 15th from 9am-12pm there will be a schematic design workshop where some details of space and its use will be discussed. Roosevelt and Franklin are each undergoing improvements. FHS gets 9-12,000 sq ft for CTE whereas RHS is only slated for 6,000 sq ft of CTE space. This amounts to less than half of the square footage that is being allotted for athletic storage. Concerned citizens should attend the meeting and advocated for RHS.

St. Johns Main Street/ Robin- Main St. is currently working on a project with Burgerville and DeSantas Landscaping. They will be green-scaping the "island" at Lombard and Philadelphia. The project includes removing non-natives (such as Ivy) and replacing them with native plants (such as grasses and shrubs). The area will be primarily a green space but there will also be some gravel and a bench to create a welcoming entrance to St. Johns. Burgerville has committed to maintenance. Some soil will be shifted to level the space; the new plants will improve visibility. Burgerville will be supporting the landscaping by using DeSantas to maintain it. The land is owned by PBOT and all official project agreements are in progress. Anyone interested can go to the St. Johns Main Street website (<http://stjohnsmainstreet.org/>) to see the plan and to help by volunteering on the project.

Treasury Report- was unable to be completed as our Treasurer was out do to emergency.

Winter Social Discussion- Babs reported that there were 38 community tables at the event. This was the first year that there was left over food. It is estimated that there were 1,200 people in attendance, in 2013 there were 700 people. Overall there was a good cross-pollination between people and groups. We received a grant to minimize trash and when all was said and done there was one bin of garbage to take out. The NoPo Big Band played and created a wonderful evening. The event was cash positive. The SJNA donates money earned

from the event (any profit) to support other St. Johns organizations and activities (for example, the SJNA donates to the St. Johns Bizarre.)

Homework Club at Parkside Commons- Alyce Harris, Manager at Parkside Commons explained that there are four apartment complexes north of Pier Park and that 2,600 people live there. This means that an average of 1 in every 6 St. Johns resident lives there. From 2:30-5pm, Mon-Fri college graduates tutor local students. Hailey, Brittany and Rae work with Bridgetown B-Town Kids to create a place for kids and families to play together. They invest in students so they can reach their full potential, they empower students for success, and they partner with families, teachers and the community. This program primarily serves students at Sitton, but also some from George School. They converted a single car garage into a learning space. On Labor Day, 2013 they held a back to school party where they gave away backpacks, tennis shoes and supplies to about 100 families. Mon-Thurs the program offers homework help and on Friday they hold a play day, practicing educational activities. When the weather got cold over the winter the women who tutor moved the program into their own apartments so they could continue to help the students. An anonymous donor paid for a 2-bedroom apartment for the program to use for the school year (a huge step up from the garage space). They now have a library, a study area and cubbies for the students to store their belongings. Many of the Sitton children are now bringing in homework completion awards from school thanks to their tutoring. These 3 young women help about 30 children and they are hoping to expand to help more students, also to one day offer preschool and pre-preschool assistance. They would like to find someone who is fluent in Spanish and can help to tutor children as many of them speak English as a second language. Also, they would like to host community members to engage with and teach the children various learning & fun activities on Friday afternoons. Things such as music and art are limited at school and this program can help to fill the gap. The program is also looking for donations of art supplies and school aged books. Anything can help. Visit the website: <http://bridgetowninc.org/about-bridgetown/staff/Brittany-Baisley/> to email Brittany with questions, comments or donations.

Preserve and Serve- Ruth Lane. Preserve and Serve (<http://preserveandserve.org/>) offers canning classes, a library of kitchen tools (juicers, dishware, canning equipment, etc.) and is available to any North Portland resident. There is no membership, borrowing equipment and tools is donation based and classes are held once a month, usually at a rate of \$10/person (but there are also scholarships for those who need them). Visit their website to learn more.

ODOT Lombard Pedestrian Improvements – Regarding the improvement project for the intersections of Lombard and Mohawk, Tyler, Polk (and we've asked for) Burr... We are hoping that ODOT will attend our meeting in April. So far, they have secured funding for the improvement of 3 intersections, they are looking for money for the fourth intersection. The project design is set for spring '14 and construction for summer '14. Jen will update as more details become final and concrete. Joe asked about ODOTs improvements on Ivanhoe and Lombard, Jen will email ODOT and follow-up with their status/response.

Bridge Events/ Steve Martinez- On March 29th and 30th there will be a two day "North Portland Spring Festival" spring event here in St. Johns. It will span throughout the neighborhood; from The Colony to the Bachelor Club to the Playground, the Brownfield site, the square and the parking lots of Burgerville and US Bank. It is free to the public and will have vendors, food, music and North Portland history information booths. The hours are from 11am-10pm on Saturday and 11am-7pm on Sunday. 10-20% of the proceeds will benefit a Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation. The event is for profit, with a portion benefiting the foundation. More information can be found at www.bridgeevents.pdx.com and <https://www.facebook.com/bridgeeventspdx>.

Announcements- Crystal stated that the next St. Johns Cash Mob will be on Friday, 2/28 at 7pm. exact event locations will be announced soon.

Robin of St. Johns Main Street announced that volunteers are needed for work days to complete the green-scaping island project. For three Saturdays in March, the 8th, 15th, 22nd and Friday, March 28th volunteers are needed. There will be ~150 University of Portland students helping as well. Project tasks include ripping out non-native plants, laying soil, and planting.

Donna Cohen stated that there will be Citizens for a Safe & Attractive Fessenden meeting on Monday, 3/3 at the St. Johns Library. There will be a speaker from PDC in attendance.

Babs announced that anyone who is helping to advertise with SJNA yard signs should be placing the signs in their yards/near businesses on the Tuesday before general meetings take place and pulled on the Tuesday after meetings are held (Generally this means- Place on 1st Tuesday of the month, remove on the 2nd Tuesday). Babs will send out reminder emails as well.

Babs also spoke about Soroptimist International, which is working to raise funds to support local Domestic Violence shelters and Meals on Wheels. There will be an event on Sunday, March 16th at St. Johns Wine Cellars. Tickets are \$20 a piece and include 5 wines and appetizers. Minors are allowed at the event, and ad will be in the upcoming SJNA newsletter.

Shamus spoke about the gentrification/revitalization forum. March isn't working for scheduling speakers- he is hoping to hold the event in April 2014.

Jen offered a mural update. The Portland Police have been engaged regarding the tagging and graffiti on our mural. Jen is currently working with the graffiti abatement team to help outfit the mural with a shield /special paint to prevent/minimize damage to the mural.

Shamus asked everyone to be sure to sign in to the meeting in order to be prepared should we have a hot-button issue and need to vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm. The next general meeting will be on March 10th at 7pm at the St. Johns Community Center.