

**St. Johns Neighborhood Association**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, February 23, 7:00 pm—St. Johns Community Center**  
**Minutes by Denis C. Theriault, secretary**

**Board members present: Emilie Saks-Webb, Jennifer Levy, Shamus Lynsky, ~~David Green~~, Justin Sundling, Rob Metnick, Denis C. Theriault, Adam Robins, Josh Leslie, Ben Poe**

**Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.**

**Land use!**

Have we picked a date for land use meetings? Josh says the first one conflicts with the soiree.. but the rest are good. Second Wednesday of the month. Jen urges Josh to publish it in Facebook.

Any updates? Josh says he wants ideas on what all were supposed to be updated on. Josh might attend a meeting on Huk Lab on Friday afternoon.

**Soiree!**

We talk about prizes and offerings. Shamus asks if a site visit had been conducted. That's still to be discussed at the leaders' meeting. Emilie wants measurements. Main Street had mentioned scheduling something. It needs to happen sooner or later.

Rob asks if OLCC people are pouring. Jen says that's a good question. Emilie says to make sure Main Street has insurance. We can sign a one-day waiver. But the fine for not having pourers is hefty. Maybe we can get Leisure folks, like when the last time Main Street had an event there.

There's a tentative discussion about music. Maybe a jazz band?

**Celebrate North Portland?**

Who's interested? Jen's not heard back from Derek Shaw of Boosters to see about splitting a table. Mike Verbout says nominations have already happened. It was roundabout. Jen asked him if we need notice? It's an outer-inner circle who decides.

Emilie and Jen says they'll go. Some other raised hands last month. Shamus will go. Denis is a maybe. Emilie did nominate Baltimore Woods for grant that happens every year, the Naito grant. As SJNA.

Child care at the meetings?

\$495 a year to rent this room for a year, to use child care.

Emilie quotes that.

Jen says that's ridiculous. We pay that much already. It would just be for this extra room. Jen says to write Amanda Fritz. It's agreed we couldn't keep having the child care in the main room. WE got this room free twice after Shamus mentioned it at the last minute and it happened to be open. Jen will actually start a few levels down, at the community center, before going up to Fritz.

There's a history of them charging us more and more. Aimee is the director here, for two years. The problem is Parks is PPR is under tight budget constraints.

SALT reboot!

Mondays are a difficult time, maybe, Jen says. Ben says location was an issue. It wasn't solid and attendance fell off. Then it was a Monday issue. It's a holiday quite often, Ben says. It's also fallen on chairs meetings days. Jen says Mondays also are a burden for board members, with three Mondays a month.

Jen offers to connect Ben with Main Street for a location.

We could also pair SALT with child care and pay for the community center side room. Ben says some suggested having SALT before regular meetings. He worries it makes for a long day and encroaches on the dinner hour.

Jen tells Ben and Josh they can try to meet every other month to thicken the meetings. Ben says it's worth thinking about. But if we're gonna get the ball rolling, we oughta have a consistent meeting time.

Ben will see if Babs wants to remain involved. Her interest may have dwindled.

SOIREE REDUX

SHAMUS says we should talk about what we'll table about and who will table? The co-chairs will be exceedingly busy. Members discuss planning logistics.

BIZARRE FUNDING AND MINUTES REVIEW/DISCUSSION

Shamus asks for \$500 for the Bizarre. We need a motion, and Adams makes it. Ben seconds. It's unanimous. Shamus abstains.

SJNA will have a table. It was requested that community groups are put together. Leaders requested it. It was discussed at Bizarre planning meeting.

LINGERING CLEANUP QUESTIONS

Members discuss logistics around the pending neighborhood cleanup, including when the final date in May might be. The Saturday before Easter is bad. "The Super Bowl of church," Rob says.

Emilie says she'll try for April 11.

#### HUK LAB

PBOT's going to be in a meeting with the Huk Lab developer, because of the St. Johns Lombard Plan.

#### BOARD RETREAT FOLLOWUP

The board reviewed a list of subjects we said we cared about, on a white board, and talked about which would produce results and which would require massive time commitments.

Shamus invokes basic bylaws spelling out minimum tasks for SJNA: land use and a neighborhood cleanup. We start there and flesh out what what means, diving into what-ifs on the cleanup,

Here are some of those notes:

#### Land use

1. development
  - a. comp plan
  - b. zoning
  - c. new construction: a. residential
    - b. commercial retail industrial

#### 2. transpo

a. trimet

b. ped

c. safety?

d. odot/pbot

e. traffic

#### 3. OLCC

#### 4. Noise board

#### SAFETY AND LIVABILITY

1. Schools

2. Enviro issues
  - a. water
  - b. air
  - c. other
3. Traffic
  - a. ped
  - b. speed
  - c. Lighting
4. Crime
  - a. property crime
  - b. graffiti
  - c. neighborhood watch
  - d. NRT time
5. Disaster preparedness
  - a. NET
  - b. CERT

Shamus says we should talk to neighbors about where their concerns line up, given that different people might care about crime and pedestrian safety, for example.

We talk about community building. Here are some notes:

#### Communication and facilitation

1. community meetings
2. newsletter and website
3. facilitating events for community building: should we meet in St. Johns Woods sometimes instead of the community center? You'll get differnt people in different places, such as Roosevelt and George.

Next steps?

We talk about sheets of concerns identified by people at the October 2014 general meeting:

Outreach to East SJ/Fessenden. Crime. Gentrification. Affordable housing. Infill housing. Lombard traffic improvements. Bike infrastructure. Public transportation. Coal trains. The Farmer's market. Volunteerism. Natural areas and plants. Food carts.

The idea is to tell people they need to pick some of these up and use us to amplify their message.

We lay out our vision for working with developers: Forming relationships and encouraging ones we think can be encouraged to do right by the neighborhood, while making sure we collect notices about variances and issuing challenges when appropriate.

We're the watchdogs of the St. John Lombard Plan, Shamus notes. He'd like a similar plan focused on housing and gentrification.

We can also write letters for or against a project and work with developers on redesigns, Emilie says.

Adjourned at 8:24