

**St. Johns Neighborhood Association  
General Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 8th St. Johns Community Center  
Minutes by Emilie Saks-Webb**

**Board members present:** Shamus Lynsky, Jennifer Levy, Emilie Saks-Webb, Scott Bricker, Rachel Hill, Travis Parker, Josh Leslie, Crystal Warner, Melissa Bartoszewski

35 community members are present.

The meeting is called to order at 7:00 pm by Scott Bricker, the night's presiding officer.

Introductions- Scott encourages everyone to talk with someone you don't know

Emilie has attached the January board minutes in error, instead of the general meeting minutes. January general minutes will be approved at March meeting, along with February minutes.

### **THE TREASURY**

Crystal provides the financial report:

**Art Fund Balance: \$828.04**

**General Fund Balance: \$5120.52**

**spent: 36.64 on 3 year renewal of domain name; 40.00 on constant contact, 101.04 at Peninsula Station**

We'll know soon whether a grant we've applied for to cover the volunteer event's expenses will come through.

### **SAFETY AND LIVABILITY TEAM**

The team, also known as the SALT team, will meet at 7 pm the second Tuesday of the month at the St. Johns Main Street office, 8250 N Lombard, right across Charleston from Signal Station Pizza. Agendas are posted on NextDoor and Facebook.

Travis Parker asked for and received the 25mph signs on Smith. We are continuing to work on speed issues.

Through the NPNS chairs meeting, sending in a letter of support for a Health Overlay Zone for the comp plan. Pedestrian safety and air quality.

Shamus mentioned that the NP chairs group submitted a letter in 2015 to encourage the environmental overlay for the comp plan. Scott says this is basically the same thing, a year later. NECN also is advocating for an environmental overlay all of the way out to 205.

Houseless issues in Portland are heating up and SALT has discussed making that a priority.

Shamus says that he and Lindsay from Main Street met with Michelle from the Portland Housing Bureau last week to talk about affordability and homelessness- they have been reaching out to Urban Renewal Districts to work on homelessness and affordability. Shamus directed them to SALT. Overlook has been dealing with Hazelnut Grove, it's been a contentious issue and there were some permitting issues. The Overlook NA sent out a letter that we abstained on because we thought the issue was too complex and we didn't have a good enough understanding/ enough information to form an opinion.

Scott- Spoke with a COP employee about main street Lombard- suggested that we drop speed from 25 to 20 down Lombard main street and make a request that every crosswalk on main drag receive striping like most main pedestrian areas in Portland. 23rd as an example, we meet the requirements.

Equity and diversity are priorities of SALT. How do we balance capacity and priorities? Ben brings up the Superfund- a critical decision is meeting the snowball downhill stage. Rapid deadlines and decisions are happening. Pay attention to these Superfund and CAG events- comment period begins this Spring.

Robin Plance- There is a forum in Linnton on Feb 22nd, 7pm at their community center. EPA region 10 has the info and so does the superfund CAG website. Jen explained that the EPA basically said there are several levels of response, with Level A being the least intervention and we will receive Level A unless they hear from the community otherwise so SPEAK UP EVERYONE! We want as much remediation as possible! Comment period will start soon! Please comment!

## **LAND USE REPORT**

The land use committee meets every second Thursday of the month at 7pm at the Main Street office.

Proud Ground came and presented about affordable home ownership with land banking. Not currently doing much in St. Johns, but it is important work and we can forward the information to anyone who is interested. Next we would like to do a Renter's Rights Forum in the early spring. If you have Land Use questions or announcements, check out the Land Use database online. People can write if they have questions and get it on our radar or share information that they know.

Wednesday 2/10 is the City Council meeting at 2pm. Show up early to speak at 1:30pm.

Shamus- as Parliamentarian of the board, it's my job to know procedures and I messed up. John Teply pointed at January 2016 SJNA general meeting the we made a motion to put in a letter of support for the street vacation of Ivy Island to the planning and sustainability commission via email and we discussed and voted via email and sent in a letter. Our bylaws are silent about electronic votes, but the NPNS/ONI guidelines say very clearly that we need to motion and vote in person. As a result, John Teply filed a procedural grievance. Grievances can only be filed on procedural issues- not on the content of the vote, but on how the vote was taken. The remedy is to fix the procedure, which in this case would mean voting as a board in person at a public meeting. Unfortunately, the hearing was already passed so meeting to allow the letter would be an empty gesture. So, we met to discuss this. We talked about the process and about trying to be more inclusive and transparent. We are sorry for the gaffe. Last month, at the meeting, a motion was made to submit a new letter to City Council and was discussed and voted in unanimously.

John Teply agreed to drop the grievance, but also noted another issue was that there weren't minutes reflecting the vote. There was no discussion at a meeting about whether a letter should be written or not. Shamus said yes, there needed to be a discussion at the meeting instead of a discussion online.

Robin asked everyone to please be patient with your neighbors, and reminded everyone that we are all here for the same reasons.

Emilie will make sure to remind Denis to put the agendas and meetings online ASAP.

Susan said that she really felt that the community opinion was not being heard and due process was not followed with the Ivy Island street vacation. She asked if electronic vote was taken by the previous board and the new vote was taken by the new board. Shouldn't the membership be consulted? Scott said, yes, we very much want input from the community. Everyone is always welcome at the board meetings. Jen reminded that we have consistently and unanimously voted in favor of the street vacation. Shamus reminded everyone that the board election is open to everyone who lives or works in this neighborhood. Every October. Everyone is welcome to run.

Scott reminded everyone that we needed to move forward with the agenda.

**MARK HITCHCOX, Pest Survey Specialist, USDA-APHIS-Plant Protection and Quarantine**

Mark Hitchcox is an entomologist who lives by Pier Park and works at the Port of Portland. He said that we have a new situation with Asian Gypsy moths in Forest Park, St. Johns and Vancouver, Washington. It was detected in 2015. The adult forms mate and then lay eggs on trees. They feed and feed and defoliate the trees and can devastate forests. A conifer probably wouldn't survive the season. There are 500 different species. They will lay eggs on anything standing still. They prefer trees, but often like ships. We need to stop them! Pre-inspection and certification of all of the ships. Russian ships are required to make sure there are no eggs masses. If they find on inspection, they go back to sea, remove them and come back. In 2015, they placed traps in the areas they had been found here. Asian moths can distribute in a 12 mile radius. There are similar European moths, but the females can't fly and they are much easier to contain. Multiple moths were found in the traps and it is assumed there are also females here. USDA and state policy dictates that AGM will not become established in the US. Treatment will happen in April/May and around 5am. They are using an OMRI approved biological insecticide called BTK that is effective on newly emerging AGM larvae. They want to be AGM free in 3 years. The insecticide is short lived and needs 3 applications. He shared more about the history of AGM in the area. Any comments or questions can be answered at 18005250137 or gypsymoth@oda.stat.or.us

Jen recommended that they put an article in the Review and keep us apprised on who is high risk so we can target them for outreach. Mark said they are working with social justice folk to reach out to those not generally reached in traditional methods. Shae asked if it will affect monarchs. Mark said there is a certain pH in their gut that only affects moths and butterflies. Yes, if they are out there feeding it will affect monarchs, but the thought is that other moths and butterflies will repopulate. Are there sensitive spots and species? No. We want to protect monarchs and they don't show up as adults until June. The application is in April-May and gone within 5-6 days. As far as studies have shown, BTK only affects caterpillars. It does not affect other animals. Jen asked him to come back in March with more information.

**LINDSAY JENSEN, ST. JOHNS MAIN STREET**

Lindsay Jensen is the Executive Director of St. Johns Main street. She shared a PowerPoint that illustrated the history and details of Main Street. She spoke about the volunteer fair that happened last month. It was sponsored by the Port and had a giant castle for the kids from Imagination Playground/Art of STEM. She has a list of everyone involved and how to contact if anyone needs. Jen explained how we have tabled the Winter Social for a couple of years, and this event came from that. The most successful part of the social was always the volunteer tabling, so this is how we have continued that.

Susan asked if Marvel got their parking from the City of Portland, as she had heard something about the old Our Daily Bread parking lot having a different ownership than the building. The building manager from Marvel answered that the inside parking at Marvel is owned by the LLC and the street parking is owned by the City of Portland.

**OPEN FORUM**

Friday, February 19th from 6-10 pm is the annual fundraiser for the St. Johns Bizarre. It will be at Occidental brewing and entertainment will be a Prince cover band and a comedian MC! Kert Wright asked for clarification of where Bizarre funds go (A: they go into paying for the Bizarre)

Susan emphasized that we should not take this spraying lightly. we have to study and do our due diligence.

There is a cleanup for Baltimore Woods happening with Friends of Trees at the SJ Christian Church on February 20th at 8:45 am

Wayfair University is buying the YMCA building and would like to come meet and talk with us.

John Teply stated that SJNA should have remained neutral about Ivy Island and questioned whether this was the legacy we wanted to leave as a board. He started to put forth a resolution that there should be more discussion, but was interrupted when Shamus approached him and told him that the question was always- do we get rid of this slip lane. It had nothing to do with anything else and using this as a polestar for gentrification is inaccurate.

*The following transcript of the meeting's final minutes has been added to the minutes by Board Secretary Denis Theriault, in accordance with a motion made during the March 14, 2016, general meeting:*

**John Teply:** "How did this come into our community?"

"And what the community can say is, 'Well, the neighborhood association, they voted and they decided that they wanted this in their community.'

"The number of signatures and the divisiveness around this issue, I think that, at the very least, that the St. Johns Neighborhood Association would be neutral on this issue. Even if the board isn't. At the very least, you should ask for your letter back from Jones Architecture.

"Some of you may have this notion that when people see this big ugly building, they will thank you because you had the foresight to fix the Charleston corner. That you knew what was best for our community. And despite overwhelming evidence of contrary opinion, you pushed for what you thought was best for St. Johns without asking your neighbors.

"So I'm going to put forth the resolution, and I think that the discussion here should not be about the virtue of The Union at St. Johns. I think that for [inaudible] in this room, it is unlikely that any of us will change our mind. I think this discussion should be more about should the St. Johns neighborhood write a letter of support for this project, and is this what you really want? When this building is up, it's four stories. And what it's going to do to our gateway...

"Is this really what you want, is to have the St. Johns Neighborhood Association saying, 'Well, that's... we got that because of the St. Johns Neighborhood Association.'"

**Shamus:** "I'm going to call bullshit right now. There's a four-story building going in at that intersection no matter what we do."

**John:** "True."

**Shamus:** "So we're not saying, 'Hey, let's put in a four-story building. We're not doing that.'"

**John:** "That's very true."

**Shamus:** "So if there's going to be a four-story building there, the question is do we get rid of this slip lane, where a bicyclist was just hit on Saturday, while I was walking around flyering for this fun community event that I'm planning? Or are we going to allow it to stay the same? So don't put this on us.

"We're not making the decision."

**John:** "I am. I am putting this on you."

**Scott:** "Ok, John. And Shamus."

**Shamus:** "I'm done."

**Scott:** "...[inaudible] this is obviously a very heated [inaudible] for our community."

**Emilie:** "Well, we're feeling pretty [inaudible banging]..."

**Scott:** "...[inaudible] ...over decades, which I'm pretty new to this neighborhood. There are a lot of strong opinions. Ideally as a community we'd be able to be friendly and have a discourse. And, also, share correct and positive information. And with that I am going to close the meeting. And thank everyone for their... [inaudible] [sounds of clapping]"

Scott adjourned the meeting at 8:20.