Piedmont Neighborhood Association
General Meeting

PNA General Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, 7:00-9:00pm.

Date: March 19, 2026
Time: 7:00-9:00pm
Location: Peninsula Park Community Ctr, 700 N Rosa Parks Way, Portland, OR 97217; Fireside Room
Via Zoom: Zoom Recording (meeting starts at 3:10)

Minutes

1. **Welcome** and **Introductions**
    a. Welcome and Introduction of PNA Board Members (Raziah Roushan, PNA Chair)
        i. Rhett Lawrence (Vice Chair), Don Robinson (Secretary), Deanne Gomez (Treasurer), ~~Ben Meyer-Crosby (Member-At-Large & NECN Rep)~~ [**excused absense]**, Brian Borrello (Member-At-Large), Vic Vencill (Member-At-Large)
    b. **21 Attendees**:15 members & 6 Board members in person

2. **Item(s) and/or Guest Speakers**
    a. **Portland City Councilor, Sameer Kanal (Councilor.Kanal@portlandoregon .gov)**
        i. Now in office for 14 months under a new form of government with 12 members (up from 5).
        ii. 8 committees were formed. He served on the Climate Resilience and Land Use Committee where they focused a lot on the CEI hub problem.
        iii. He was also on the Labor and Workforce Development Committee that focused on affordability and good-paying jobs.
        iv. And he was a co-chair of the Community and Public Safety Committee. His background is public safety where he worked for the City for 3 years. They worked to improve poor street response to something closer to 24/7.
        v. They're currently working on a piece of legislation to: ban law enforcement from wearing masks in the city of Portland, require visible identification, and when there are unidentified people exercising law enforcement authority, to have Portland police verify that they are, in fact, federal or state.
        vi. 8 committees are too many, so starting in April, the number of committees will be reduced in number. He'll be staying on the Community and Public Safety Committee as a member, and he'll be joining the Public Works Committee and get to focus on transportation infrastructure. District 2 has not been represented on that committee for the last year.
        vii. He'll be chairing a new committee called the Committee of the Whole which involves finance, governance, oversight of the administration, federal response and broad emergency response.
        viii. In Portland's old form of govt, there were 27 siloed bureaus that were run by the 5 former City Commissioners who usually had no expertise running their bureaus. These insulated bureaus rarely collaborated, were often-times inefficient and occasionally hoarded money for upcoming projects. Today, Portland is run by a City Administrator who oversees four Deputy Administrators who each cover their own District (service area). So, for example, Public Works has a deputy city administrator, and under that, there's someone in charge of water and sewer, parks, and transportation. Similarly, on the public safety side, the Chief of Police, the Chief of Fire, the head of the 911 Bureau, Emergency Management, and

community safety like Portland Street Response all report to a single Deputy City Administrator for Public Safety.

ix. **To greatly reduce the time and effort it can take to figure out where/who to contact to help with a city-related question, the 311 operators now serve as an information hub for most inquiries. They also correspond over email.**
x. He would like to see Formula E (electric race cars) return to PIR. He'd like to ban leaded-fuel being used on some PIR race cars but doesn't yet have the votes.
xi. He's concerned about mitigating air pollution along I-5. He's pro EVs and hybrids, but may also explore congestion pricing
xii. To lower rents on affordable housing, he agrees that some of the recent $20.7 million (unspent Covid money) and the $9 million unspent Arts Tax could be used to buy down the mortgages of the affordable non-profits, so they can refinance thereby lowering rents. And to reduce homelessness, we can keep people in their homes, so he also wants some $ to go to emergency rent assistance to reduce evictions. He's also a renter.
xiii. He will look to see if the Land Use Planning office could start sending out notices to NAs via email instead of snail mail.
xiv. The City's permitting process has streamlined some but still needs to improve timeliness.
xv. He led the effort to create legislation regarding ICE and the federal response. The City Council passed two measures in October: pushing back on National Guard deployment and codifying our sanctuary city status.
xvi. **He encouraged the support by NAs to the *Right to Know Who's Policing You* ordinance** that he's been working on since August regarding federal response and public safety broadly. It will be voted on by the City Council in early April.
    1. There are four parts: masking, identification, verification, and documentation
    2. If you're law enforcement, you have to be unmasked (some exceptions: if it's your plain clothes undercover or it's 2 degrees outside)
    3. You have to have visible identification, your agency name, your badge number, your first initial and last name. And that when someone is doing something that requires law enforcement authority, like putting somebody handcuffed into the back of a vehicle or smashing someone's window and pulling someone out at a school.
    4. Make it a common practice to ask, "Can you show me an ID?"
    5. Document the encounter. If that person is Customs and Border Patrol or ICE, we're not going to interfere with it; we're going to back up and get out of the way, but at least then we'll have a record showing this happened at this place at this time.

3. **Committee and Community Updates**
    a. Rosemont Court and Commons (Don)
        i. Here was Don's summary of the latest update from Trell Anderson (Executive Director of NW Housing Alternatives):
            1. Last month, Trell had shared that the scope of work to renovate RC had been updated to include recent recommendations from a water management expert in coordination with the City Risk Department.
            2. NHA is under a non-disclosure agreement, so he's able to share their strategy, but not in real specifics. To integrate the recommendations, they are working to refine the plumbing design, construction, and operations of water management programs to align with the experts' review, feasibility, and cost constraints.

3. There is some built-in flexibility on the funding, apparently, on these sorts of projects, so he's pretty confident that they're not going to have to go back for additional funding.
4. He remains confident that the project is still on target to kick off in or before July.

b. N Bryant Street Pedestrian/Bike Bridge (Brian)
   i. Earth Day clean-up and mural touch-up on Sat., April 25 from 10:00am-2:00pm. Navigate to N Bryant Street at N Missouri Ave, Portland, OR 97217. Rain date April 26th, same line-up.
      1. We'll have shovels and gear, and paint supplies to touch up an existing street mural. Art supplies donated by Sherwin Williams. There'll be coffee and donuts.
   ii. As time allows, we will also continue site prep work on a new Greenspace one block to the south at N Missouri and Dekum.

4. **Community Announcements**
   a. Elliot Neighborhood CoChair is leading an effort to redesign MLK Blvd. between Broadway to Lombard. Concepts include elevating small business support and commuter safety through pedestrian-forward thinking, adding parking back onto the Boulevard, and adjustments to bus stops for expeditious service. Visit www.mlkpdx.org for the full effort to-date.
   b. Sparrowhawk Native Plants is partnering with the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, The Blueprint Foundation, Friends of Baltimore Woods and Bird Alliance of Oregon Green Leaders Program to bring native plant sale fundraisers to North and East Portland! Order online NOW through March 29. Visit www.sparrowhawknativeplants.com
   c. Save the Dates:
      i. Saturday, May 9, 11:00am-3:00pm for the Annual **Dirty Diggers of Loveland Plant Sale**. Location to be announced on PNA calendar soon.
      ii. May TBD for the **Piedmont Neighborhood Garage Sales**. Awaiting details from community coordinator, Sean Johnson.

5. **Other Items**
   a. The Boys and Girls Aid Foster Care Program is seeking people who maybe have been foster parents, have considered being foster parents, maybe raised your children but still have time and would like to contribute to our growing community.
   b. There's a CEI (Critical Energy Infrastructure) engagement on March 31st.