BRIDGETON

Spring General Meeting – Portland Yacht Club
Meeting Notes
April 21, 2026 | 6:30 – 8:30pm

6:37 **Attendance:** 58 Bridgeton, Roth Estate and East Columbia residents; Guests – Sameer Kanal, District 2 City Councilor and his assistant Max, and Francisca with MCDD re: flood safety

Discussion Tables:

- IBR
- Land Use
- Bottle Drop/Portland Food Project green bags
- Clean & Green, Adopt One Block and BEECN
- Events

Announcements:

- Neighborhood Clean Up confirmed for May 9
- Grant writer needed for proposed Community Garden
- See events tables for dates and volunteer opportunities

6:49 **Presentation: Sameer Kanal**

- Overview of 12-person City Council
- Mayor's budget proposal just out; 11 pages
- Community public safety; Public Works
- Community of the Whole; Finance Chair; Emergency Response + Portland Street Response
- Zero fire station or community center closures

6:57 **Table Discussions:**

- **Interstate Bridge Replacement – Walter**

  Discussions include IBR, levels, environmental overlay zone, protected zone impact on jobs, parking, etc.; East Columbia already met/toured; some absurdity when using mathematical formula; District 2 has most coast; some marked as wetlands (which are not)

- **Questions – Sameer:**
  - People want local representation; accessibility; Dan Ryan, Elena Pirtle-Guiney and Sameer work closely together in District 2
  - Sunderland was priority (lost); interest in Columbia pool, aquatic center at Expo;
  - Addressed questions re: $133 million dollars found in housing bureau – was restricted funds, replaced by feds, $9m went to rent assistance.

    - Districts received equal dollars for offices; location in question for District 2 which represents 28 neighborhoods; at City Hall three days a week; estimated $1.2m to build out storefront, security.
    - Moda renovation at $77m
    - Proud of budget, street response, sanctuary city

- **Others met in small groups**

- **New to Bridgeton:** health care/fitness business, Ebb & Ember Floating Saunas, Big Ass Glass; Columbia Way West Moorage sold and now called Elevated Tides

7:20 Informal discussions continue until close at 8:30