

Grant Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Winter 2006

Grant Park Sports Facilities Proposal



The proposed project Open House was held in the Grant High School library on January 18th. Two separate presentations were made with time allowed for questions and discussion. The event was well attended we certainly hope that all those interested in or affected by the project were able to participate.

The project proposes to augment the existing sports facilities to address sports user's concerns about the quality of the playing fields and adequately seating fans at competitive events. Essential elements of the proposal are:

- to replace the existing turf in the bowl (football field) with artificial turf
- install permanent seating in the bowl area
- install permanent nighttime lighting for the bowl
- install partial permanent fencing around the bowl area
- install permanent railing along the north edge of the bowl
- regrade to level the baseball/soccer fields (east of the bowl)
- replace the existing turf in the baseball/soccer field with artificial turf
- reinstall new turf in Hollywood field (north of Grant High School))

This is not an "all or nothing" proposal. A Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was formed a year ago to begin evaluating the proposal and to review the comments and concerns of interested parties. The CAC will issue a recommendation to both Portland Parks & Recreation and Portland Public Schools which could range anywhere from the full proposal as presented to leaving the area as is with no changes. As most of the land affected by the proposal is the property of Portland Parks, the final decision lies with them.

The Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) is primarily concerned with potential effects that implementation of this proposal may have upon the membership of GPNA. Two GPNA board members are CAC members as are representatives from Alameda Community Association, Irvington Neighborhood Association, Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association and Hollywood Neighborhood Association. As of this writing, the CAC has not yet met to review the comments from the January Open House.

In order to help us ascertain your views on this proposal, a questionnaire is enclosed in this newsletter. We sincerely hope that you'll take the time to complete it and return it not later than February 28th.

www.grantpark-na.org

IN THIS ISSUE

- GPNA Elections
- Grant Bowl Questionnaire
- Hollywood Sewer Work
- Grant Park Wading Pool
- Caring for Your Street Trees
- And more ...

Next General Meeting
February 28, 2006
Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Grant Park Church
2728 N.E. 34th Ave.
(at Knott)

AGENDA

- Committee Reports
• Treasurer's Report

Old Business

- Grant Bowl Update
- Neighborhood Clean Up
- Berry Fundraising
- Albina Fuel Site Update

New Business

- Election of Officers

Future Meetings

(tentative)

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| February 28, 2006 | (General) |
| March 28, 2006 | (Board) |
| May 9, 2006 | (General) |
| August 29, 2006 | (Board) |
| October 10, 2006 | (General) |
| October 31, 2006 | (Board) |
| December 5, 2006 | (General) |

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Mike Heymann 503-288-2731

Karen Lewis 503-288-4356

Andy Mones 503-249-3744

Pam Pickens 503-287-4240

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Hollywood Sewer Reconstruction

Construction is scheduled to start this March on a much needed project to reconstruct and improve the Hollywood District's sewer system, originally built around 1911.

The project has two main goals: To rehabilitate the trunk sewer on Sandy between NE 37th and 47th Avenues; and to rebuild and enlarge collector sewers north and south of Sandy between Broadway and Thompson. Some sewers are in poor condition, and others need to be enlarged to prevent sewer backups. In most cases, the reconstructed sewers will follow the route of the existing sewer system, but Environmental Services will be building a new sewer line in the 3500-3600 blocks of Broadway.

Bids for the work were opened in December, and Parsons-RCI of Portland was apparent low bidder at \$5.395 million.

Sewer Tentative Construction Schedule:

- Early 2006 – Contract awarded
- March 2006 – Sandy Blvd sewer work starts
- September 2006 – Complete major Sandy sewer work in preparation for streetscape and resurfacing project (see below)
- Fall 2006 to summer 2007 – Complete sewer work north and south of Sandy.

Extended Work Hours

Environmental Services will work extended hours from March to September 2006, to speed completion of the project and reduce traffic impacts. The extended work hours are Monday through Saturday, 7 am to 10 pm and occur on NE Sandy between 39th and 46th; the 4000 block of NE Broadway; the 1700 block of NE 39th; and the 4300 block of NE Hancock. Work outside these areas will take place during

normal work hours, Monday to Saturday, 7 am to 6 pm. Construction could last a month or more at each site and will include excavation, pipe laying, hauling and paving.

The extended hours will also include 24-hour pipe lining operations on Sandy between NE 37th and 48th. This work is schedule for summer 2006 and would last three to five days at each of six locations. Work in these areas will include us of pumps, generators, and boilers.

Traffic Controls and Impacts

This will be a major project involving one of east Portland's busiest arterial streets and will have significant impacts on traffic, especially along Sandy Boulevard, but local access will be maintained for businesses and residents. Emergency access will be maintained at all times.

During the major sewer work, serious traffic impacts are expected. At times, traffic on Sandy will be reduced to one lane in each direction. Most parking on Sandy will be prohibited in the work areas. Pit work at 39th, Broadway and Hancock will close the intersections to through traffic.

North and south of Sandy the project will have more typical impact: streets will be closed to through traffic during work hours, but open to normal traffic lanes outside work hours. Beyond the designated work areas, traffic patterns will be normal, but congestion will have an impact.

Publicity About Traffic Controls

Publicity in the news media will provide project information updates and will stress that all areas of Hollywood are accessible while encouraging commuters to seek other routes during construction. Advance warning signs beyond the project area will

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also encourage commuters to seek other routes. Updated information on work areas, traffic controls, and detours will be available by recorded telephone messages, will be sent to an e-mail update list of businesses and neighbors, and posted on the city's web site at: <http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/>.

There will also be a walk-in construction office in Hollywood that will serve as a base for construction staff and for community relations. This office will provide a location for meetings with neighbors and others. Community relations staff are also available by telephone and e-mail during business hours. City construction inspectors are on-site during work hours and can often help with immediate concerns such as business access.

Coordinating with the Sandy Streetscape

The Hollywood project schedule is tied to the Sandy streetscape project schedule, which will include resurfacing and street improvements on Sandy between NE 13th and 47th. The Sandy streetscape project is scheduled to reach Hollywood in late 2006, following completion of the major Sandy sewer work.

Project managers for the sewer and street improvement projects are coordinating their construction schedules, and sewer work that affects Sandy will be timed to avoid delaying the street improvements. Details about the streetscape project are online at www.portlandonline.com/transportation.

Green Solutions

Non-structural green solutions are recommended instead of pipe repairs on NE 38th between Broadway and Thompson. Planted infiltration areas will be built in the parking planter strips along 38th. Plans call for installation of four planters in each block which will take water from the street and filter it into the ground, removing it from the sewer system. The purpose is to prevent sewer backups and basement flooding that can happen during heavy storms. On 38th, green solutions provide an economical alternative to enlarging sewer pipes.

This information was obtained from the City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental services web site, <http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/>. For more information about the Hollywood Sewer Reconstruction Project, contact Bob Cynkar of Environmental Services at 503-823-7898 or robertcyn@bes.ci.portland.or.us.

Election of GPNA 2006 Officers

Once again, we will be electing officers at the February General Meeting of the Grant Park Neighborhood Association. This year we lost some fine officers who moved away from the neighborhood, so there will be open positions on the board.

There are five positions available on the board: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Communications. As of publication date three existing Board members have indicated their desire to run for Officer positions:

- Michael Kinney - President
- Ron Laster - Vice President
- Katie Davenport - Communications.

Nominations for all Officer positions and Board positions will be taken from the floor during the election at the meeting. All Grant Park residents who are interested in participating on the Board are welcomed to nominate themselves. The GPNA board has a history of nurturing new members through the citizen participation process.

Please feel free to call acting chair Ron Laster 503-287-9566 or any of the listed Board members for additional information.

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Grant Park Wading Pool



Over and over again last summer at Grant Park playground, I heard, "What happened to the wading pool?" said GPNA board member Elizabeth Beeghly. "Two summers ago, it was a popular spot for mothers and their young children to congregate on hot summer afternoons. Kids splashed in the wading pools while moms sat in the shade. It was wonderful."

After contacting Portland Parks and Recreation to request reestablishing the wading pool program at Grant Park, she learned that funding for this program has been eliminated from the Park Bureau's budget. Kenilworth Park and Wallace Park, however, have reopened their wading pools through the work of volunteers. A volunteer turns on the wading pool in the morning and turns them off in the evening.

Our children will continue to enjoy the Beverly Cleary sculpture garden fountain, but wouldn't it be great to reopen the wading pool? We need at least five volunteers to make this possible. As a volunteer, you will be required to attend a training in May to learn how to operate the wading pool as well as commit to a schedule for turning on or off the wading pool this summer. For additional information or to volunteer, please contact Elizabeth Beeghly at 503-288-5527 or e-mail wadingpool@grantpark-na.org.

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The High Cost of Crime

The costs of government service for public safety is a consistent headline topic in media. Included below are issues and solutions from both the national and local perspective.

Nationally

Washington, DC: "Crime takes a staggering financial toll on communities across the country," according to a new report, *Preventing Crime Saves Money*, released by the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), October 11, 2005, www.ncpc.org.

Despite record low levels of crime, the report estimates the national cost of personal and property crime at \$428 billion a year. "Effective crime prevention saves money. The financial, physical, and psychological costs of crime are enormous."

The report looks at the overall impact of crime and uses cost-benefit analysis to show that investment in crime prevention is an effective way for communities to minimize the high price of crime.

Locally

Multnomah County and the City of Portland joined in a public safety program entitled "Project 57", which will use \$1.3 million over 12 months to jail individuals arrested on one of seven specific crimes that directly impact neighborhood livability, including: burglary, drugs and prostitution until their arraignment. Through Project 57, we hope to create a significant deterrence to the chronic recurrence of crime.

"One of the best ways to decrease crime in a community is for people within the neighborhood to be connected and communicate with each other. Neighbors need to know who and what activities belong in their neighborhood, what is unusual, and how to document and report suspicious activity. Criminals are less likely to go into an area if they know that the community is organized and united." (A sense of connection) "increases the pride in making their neighborhood a safe and healthy place to live," according to the City of Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI).

How to Join

To be involved in the crime prevention effort for your neighborhood contact ONI Crime Prevention Coordinator, Tom Peavey at (503) 823-4763.

Albina Fuel Design Progresses

On January 16th, the design team for redevelopment of the Albina Fuel site held a feedback meeting with invited community members. Developers, architects, project manager and other team members met with representatives from Tri-Met and the Portland Streetcar, and participants from the surrounding neighborhoods of Hollywood, Irvington, Grant Park, Kerns, Laurelhurst and Sullivan's Gulch to present and get comments on the latest round of the design. Also present was one of the property's owners. This session was used to update the nearby neighborhoods on the progress of the plan and to solicit suggestions on ways they can improve and approach the project as it goes forward.

This meeting took a step back from the actual building design and considered the arrangement of building masses; projected traffic flow of cars, bicycles and pedestrians, to, through and around the site; and parking issues on and around the site as well. The meeting also looked at landscape options, open space and a possible connection to the future Sullivan's Gulch Trail which would run very close to the south border of this project

All participants were interested in making the project an asset to the surrounding neighborhoods and potentially a defining feature of the area and in minimizing potential negative impacts.

On March 2, 2006, the project team will take their designs for another appearance before the Portland Design Review Commission for advice, and they plan to take into account the feedback they received from the January 16th meeting in creating that presentation. At this point, the project team does not expect to be creating any detailed drawings until after the design review meeting.

Neighborhood Clean Up Plans

A tentative date of April 22nd has been set aside for the neighborhood clean-up. The next newsletter will provide final details. In the meantime, volunteers are needed. A core group will get the event organized. The majority of volunteers are needed the day of the event. If you are interested in either being in the core group or helping the day of the Clean-Up, please contact Kathy Bang at cleanup@grantpark-na.org.

Graffiti in Portland

At present, it seems there is more total graffiti in Portland than we've seen for a while. That is mostly due to the inclement weather. Paint-outs are severely reduced when the rain is so steady. The good news is, the City is documenting all locations and collecting photos, and will prioritize cleanups to go full force as soon as there is a consistent break in the weather. The police are making arrests at a rate of approximately 3 a week! The community has been helpful in making reports, online and via the hotline. If a business or property owner wants graffiti removal assistance, please call Marcia L. Dennis, Office of Neighborhood Involvement Graffiti Abatement Coordinator at 503-823-5860. Digital photos may be emailed directly to Marcia Dennis at mdennis@ci.portland.or.us, and she will attach them to the appropriate report (an address must be provided).

St Patrick's Day Parade

On March 12th, starting at 11am the 15th annual St. Patrick's day Parade will travel from Fernwood Middle School, down Hancock Street to NE 16th and then back up Tillamook Street to the school. Come, watch, cheer, or even join the parade. This is a fun, free-form neighborhood event and open to all.

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Outdoor Maintenance Requirements

from the Portland City Code 29.20.010

Obstructions to rights of way.

Keep the adjacent rights of way free of anything that obstructs or interferes with the normal flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic, unless specifically authorized by ordinance to do otherwise. Including, but is not limited to, removal of earth, rock, and other debris, as well as projecting or overhanging bushes and limbs that may obstruct or render unsafe the passage of persons or vehicles. This responsibility includes meeting the following minimum clearances:

Sidewalks

All sidewalks must be clear of obstructions from edge to edge and to an elevation of 7-1/2 feet above sidewalk level. For example, bushes that encroach on or over any part of a sidewalk area must be cut back or removed and limbs of trees that project over the sidewalk area at an elevation of less than 7-1/2 feet above the sidewalk level must be removed.

Improved streets

All improved streets must be clear of obstructions to vehicles and parking from edge to edge and up to 11 feet above street level. Vegetation that encroaches on or over any part of a street must be cut back or removed to below 11 feet above street level; wires and other things over the street must also be at an elevation not less than 11 feet.

If a nuisance violation is discovered or complaint is filed, enforcement procedures will be initiated. The nuisance will be inspected and a letter sent. The property owner has 15 days to abate the nuisance or the City will issue a work order to a City contractor, who will abate the nuisance, and charges will be imposed. If the abatement charges they are not paid, they will be assessed as a lien against the property.



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Caring For Your Street Trees

How did your trees do this winter? If you are considering removing, pruning or replacing your street trees, remember that there is a process which must be followed.

Urban trees provide benefits that are fundamental to our city's livability. Qualities like clean air and water, cooler streets and homes, beauty, and wildlife habitat are essential to the health and comfort of any city. Learning how to properly plant, maintain, and preserve your own trees is the most effective action any citizen can take.

Removing and Pruning

To preserve Portland's urban forest, the Tree Cutting Ordinance regulates the removal of any tree (including roots) in the public right-of-way and the cutting of some trees on private property that are 12" in diameter or greater, measured at 4.5 feet above ground. Topping trees is prohibited and proper arboricultural practices must be followed. Property owners can call Urban Forestry with questions about public trees and their care. If you plan to remove any street tree, call before you begin.

If your property is designated as an Historical Landmark, is located within Scenic, Environmental, or Conservation Zones, or is being subdivided, developed or improved, you should call the Planning and Zoning information line at 503-823-7526 with questions about tree requirements.

Pruning your trees properly can mean the difference between a healthy tree and a hazard. City Tree Inspectors offer advice on how and where to prune, and how to hire a good tree care company.

Tree Planting Requirements

If you are planning to plant a street tree on city right-of-way, you need to get a permit, which is free and includes an on-site inspection. A City tree inspector will determine the proper tree location and help you select appropriate varieties for your location. This will ensure that the tree you choose provides the maximum benefit and requires minimal maintenance in the future. There are also important spacing, distance and clearances that must be followed.

For more information on these issues, or to request a permit, call Urban Forestry at 503-823-4489.

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New Quick Stop Recycling

A new, recycling facility, called "Quick Stop Recycling" will soon open in North Portland at the corner of N. River Street and Randolph Avenue. The facility will accept clean yard debris and wood waste from homeowners, landscapers, contractors, and haulers.

Acceptable yard debris includes grass clippings, garden and tree prunings, leaves, and vines but not sod. Acceptable wood waste includes unpainted lumber and plywood with metal bolts and/or nails 3/8" or less. Painted, pressure-treated and creosote treated wood contain toxic material and cannot be recycled but must be treated as garbage.

Yard debris should be kept separate from wood waste, and no plastic, glass, metal, or garbage will be accepted. Yard debris will be screened before transferring to farms for land application and composting. Wood waste will be trucked to Newburg for use as fuel at SP Newsprint.

The anticipated price will be \$10 per cubic yard with a minimum \$12 charge. Hours will be 7:30 am-5 pm; Mon-Fri, and 8 am-4 pm Sat. The planned opening date is March 1, but please call 971-531-1814 to confirm before bringing materials.

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Be a Part of Relay for Life 2006

This summer, N/NE Portland residents have the opportunity to unite as a community and fight back against cancer through a very special community event. It's called the Relay For Life. The inaugural NE Portland Relay For Life last year was the beginning of an annual NE Portland summer event that not only celebrates the wonderful communities of N/NE Portland, but also honors survivors of cancer and joins people together to fight against cancer.

Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's signature activity. It offers communities an opportunity to participate in the fight against cancer. Relays are 18 to 24 hours in length and go overnight. Teams of 8 to 15 people camp out at a local high school, college, park, or fairground and take turns walking, jogging, or running around a track or path.

Because Relay For Life is a community gathering rather than an athletic event, anyone and everyone can participate. Businesses, clubs, families, friends, hospitals, churches, schools, and service organizations form teams. These teams share a common purpose - supporting the American Cancer Society's mission of eliminating cancer.

All N/NE Portland residents are invited to become involved in this inspiring and fun event that we often refer to as a "party with a purpose." This year's NE Portland Relay For Life 2006 will be held at Portland Christian School on Aug 5-6, 2006. Volunteers and community leaders are needed to form teams for the event. Businesses and organizations are invited to learn more about sponsorship opportunities. Call 503-795-3971, or send an e-mail to heather.sayah@cancer.org for details. We look forward to hearing from you!!

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Town Hall Meeting

On March 4, 2006, from 10:00 am to noon, State Representative Jackie Dingfelder will hold a town meeting at the Hollywood Senior Center, at 1820 NE 40th Avenue. She will be joined by two of her colleagues, Representative Steve March and Senator Avel Gordly. Everyone is invited. This is an excellent opportunity to meet and discuss the topics that are most important to us as individuals and as a community. There will be plenty of time at the Town Hall for a question and answer period so be sure to bring your questions. We are looking forward to hearing from you, so please mark your calendars and plan on reserving part of your Saturday morning for the Town Hall.

Preschool events

Lee Owen Stone Cooperative Preschool, is having an open house, Saturday, Feb. 25th from 10 am-3 pm at their new location, the Grant Park Baptist Church education annex, on the corner of NE 34th and Knott Ave. Interested families can tour the school, meet the teacher, talk with parents of current Lee Owen Stone preschoolers, and get information regarding the 2006/7 school year. For more information, contact Darci Shaver, Membership Coordinator at 503-285-7779 or moraskyfamily@hotmail.com.

On Saturday, March 11th, from 5-9 pm, the preschool will also be hosting their Oscar Night Extravaganza, an annual charity auction, at the Madeleine Parish, at 3123 NE 24th Ave. Anyone interested is invited to attend this fun, semi-formal evening, which includes dinner, drinks and a lively auction. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$18 at the door. For ticket or donation information, contact: Rachel Carlson, Auction Chair at 503-281- 5861 rachelabra@msn.com

Newsletter Delivery

GPNA offers a special "Thank You" to Sally Baker for her much appreciated work to coordinate the distribution of this newsletter for the past three years. While her volunteer work went on mostly unnoticed by many of us, that effort has been pivotal in getting this newsletter delivered to your doorstep shortly before each of our four general membership meetings each year. Sally has recently moved from Grant Park to the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood and we wish her well in her new digs.

We also offer a warm welcome to Harold "Hal" Hay who has volunteered to take over from Sally. Hal has been a resident of Grant Park since 1959 and has a wealth of knowledge about the history of our neighborhood. Our newsletters wouldn't be delivered to you without people like Sally, Hal and the host of neighborhood volunteers who walk the neighborhood, rain or shine, to ensure timely delivery. We owe them all a big "Thank You."

Finally, there are currently a few vacant delivery routes. If you would like to join this great crew and volunteer as a route representative, or would like more information, call Hal at 503-287-8647.



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