



Grant Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Fall 2007

Portland Public Schools Update on Grant Park Improvement Plan

Restoring and improving the playing fields at Grant Park and Grant High School has been under discussion for several years, but the proposal has entered a new phase. It all started with the efforts of a volunteer, parent-initiated effort "to bring the Grant's athletic fields into the 21st Century."

A large number of committed citizens, Friends of Grant Sports (FGS), worked hard to determine the type and extent of improvements, and those ideas were then shaped by input from public meetings and open houses.

A few months ago, the proposal was sent to Portland Public Schools (PPS) for review and endorsement. PPS appreciated all the work that went into the proposal. The district was especially grateful for the prospect of a capital fund-raising effort, because PPS lacks the resources to make major improvements to playing surfaces at district high schools.

For a school district experiencing declining enrollment, the gift of restored recreational facilities is naturally appealing.

At about the same time this spring, a group of community leaders, calling themselves the "Community Athletic Facilities Partnership" came forward with an initiative to raise the dollars to improve all of PPS's high school facilities. So the Grant work was naturally brought under the umbrella of the larger "10 Great Fields" effort.

The proposed improvements at Grant - in the new revised PPS version

- focus primarily on renovating the surfaces of the existing fields. All-weather (artificial) turf would make them more usable during the rainy season, and provide a better, safer playing surface during good weather.

The current PPS proposal adopts the community's FGS plan to add pedestrian-scale lighting along pathways in Grant Park, security lighting near the school buildings, and protective railing adjacent to the Grant Bowl's north end. Using a new technology sound system that directs sound to event participants at baseball and track events would replace the big old noisy loudspeakers that blast sound throughout the neighborhood.

PPS and Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R) have made the commitment that the use of the fields - including the numbers of users - would remain the same as today.

By adhering to existing uses and use controls (through PP&R permits) we believe the renovations would not "exclude many neighborhood residents who currently use the park" as some nearby residents claim. We also believe there would not be parking and traffic issues as a consequence of these renovation measures.

However appealing and timely the Grant proposal is for many users we've heard from, we are aware that some components of the original parent-initiated plan were not receiving broad support in the immediate

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- School Events
- Neighborhood Grants
- Gulch Trail
- Farmer's Market Extended
- and more ...

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Next General Meeting
October 2, 2007
Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Grant Park Church
2728 N.E. 34th Ave.
(at Knott)

AGENDA

Announcements
New President

Committee Reports
Land Use
PIC
Grant Park Development
Committee

New Business
Fernwood/Hollyrood
Amend GPNA Bylaws
Noise from sport events

Old Business
Grant Park Development
Grant HS & GPNA

Future Meetings

(tentative)

October 30, 2007 (Board)
December 4, 2007 (General)
January 8, 2008 (Board)

GPNA

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Changes in the Park

from the President's Desk

At our March general meeting, Kathy Bang stepped down from the position of Land Use Chair. Over the years Kathy has used her knowledge of Portland Code and site development to represent our interests to the City. We thank her for all she has done. Geoff Hyde has agreed to step into this challenging post.

Pending a move to the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood, Michael Kinney has also announced that he would be resigning as the GPNA President and Treasurer. Michael has worked as an active and influential member of the Board for the betterment of our neighborhood and Grant Park. We also thank him for taking the lead on forming the park's off leash dog area. We'll miss him and his unwavering dedication.

As 2nd Vice President, I've agreed to take the position of President until the elections in March of 2008. My past work as a member of the Board and a City Planner for the City of Portland, have prepared me to take on this new role. We hope the transition will be seamless.

Finally, I'd like to encourage all our neighbors to get involved in our neighborhood association. It's your ticket to city hall and city governance.

From development in our neighborhood to development in the surrounding neighborhoods, the Grant Park Neighborhood Association is recognized by City Council as a voice of its constituency. Getting involved is a way to ensure that our calm, safe, quiet neighborhood remains one of the best neighborhood's in Portland.

Elizabeth Beeghly

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Grant Park Development Review

The Board established the Grant Park Development Review Committee (DRC) two years ago. Since that time, the DRC has attended meetings of the Citizen Advisory Committee; spoken with the Director of Portland Parks and Recreation (PPR), Commissioners and city employees; toured Grant Park with School Board members, and met with the founder of www.preservegrantpark.com. By reaching out to our contacts at PPR and Portland Public Schools (PPS), we've been able to follow the progress of the project through the different City Bureaus. We have also kept in contact with GPNA members and users from around Portland.

Now working with Doug Capps from PPS, we are discussing how the project will be reviewed by the City, focusing on the type review required. Doug has presented three options; Bureau of Development Services (BDS) Conditional Use Review Type II or Type III; or PPS, PPR and City Council review.

The BDS Conditional Use Review is defined by the Portland Zoning Code (Title 33.) The proposal will be sent to several City Bureaus, neighbors with a certain perimeter of the site, GPNA, and the local business association. All will have a chance to comment.

Public comment must be sent to BDS in writing. There are development standards that must be addressed by the City Planner, which include livability, impact, existing infrastructure, traffic and parking. When a decision is rendered, comments not adequately addressed can be appealed.

The major difference between a Type II and Type III is that Type II's are appealed to a BDS Hearings Officer and Type III's are appealed to City Council.

PPS and PPR process requires an internal review. PPS has completed its evaluation and PPR is currently reviewing the proposal. An open house will provide an opportunity for public comments to be shared. Commissioner Dan Saltzman will present the final document to City Council for approval.

At this time, the DRC is inclined to recommend that a Type III Conditional Use Review would be the best process for evaluating the many elements of the proposal. Share your comments and concerns with the DRC at grantparkna@yahoo.com.

PPS Update - continued from page 1

neighborhood, particularly those improvements that might cause increased use of the fields and impacts on the adjoining neighborhood. So those elements were scaled back in the PPS proposal.

- * The Grant football program - with afternoon games -- would not expand.
- * No stadium-type lighting is proposed.
- * No stadium-type seating is proposed.
- * No permanent fencing is proposed

We also know that all-weather (artificial) turf is not universally accepted. And using part of Hollyrood Field for Grant athletics - the Women's Softball program - added back to the proposal by PPS, may be an issue to other users of that area.

While the proposal focuses on the areas of Grant Park where organized uses and activities occur, we recognize the complex multi-use nature of Grant Park. This park serves as athletic facility for a high school, recreation for the community, an off-leash area for dogs, and open green space - all in the same general area.

Be assured that PPS fully appreciates the unique nature of Grant Park as a wonderful place available for a variety of uses, and open space. All of these uses (and non-uses) must be respected and preserved. No plan can benefit one group at the expense of the others.

So where is the proposal today? It is currently undergoing a "technical review" by PP&R along with the City's Bureau of Development Services (the department evaluating current use data) They are providing an assessment of PPS' conclusion that there would be no increased impacts from these renovations.

Then the proposal will be presented at an Open House this fall, providing an opportunity to hear from park users, and residents. That's where we'll also present

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the pros and cons of artificial turf, the data collected regarding current uses, the commitments regarding increased use, and other elements of the proposal.

After community review and comment, the recommendation would be forwarded to the Portland School Board and to Commissioner Dan Saltzman, for possible Portland City Council and School Board acceptance or approval.

We hope you will become part of a thoughtful community-based conversation to help formulate a final set of recommendations. Your involvement will help assure that the final plan endorsed by PPS and PP&R acknowledges all interests. We are benefiting from GPNA's review and comments, and look forward to GPNA jointly sponsoring the upcoming Open House.

Submitted to the GPNA by Doug Capps, representing Portland Public Schools and Community Athletic Facilities Partnership's "10 Great Fields Program"

You can read the entire proposal at www.facilities.pps.k12.or.us/docs/pg/10703. The link is "Grant High Proposal for 10 Great Fields Program." Doug Capps can be reached at dcapps@pps.k12.or.us.

Find out about the changes slated for Grant Park.

Get involved.



www.PreserveGrantPark.com
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Noise Complaints

The Bureau of Development Services' Noise Control Office is responsible for enforcing the provisions in the City of Portland's noise code (Title 18), helping to resolve citizens noise concerns and assisting with noise variance applications. Title 18 was developed to control the level of noise in the City of Portland in a way that promotes the use, value and enjoyment of one's property and the urban environment. The enforcement of the noise ordinance is complaint driven. For information on how to file a noise complaint, please call the Noise Control Office at (503) 823-7350

Grant Park Church Task Force

By the time you read this, school will be back in session. And at the Grant Park Church, this means that PICS (Portland International Community School) and the Lee Owens Cooperative Pre-School are also in full swing.

Our efforts earlier this year resulted in a Good Neighbor Agreement between the GPC and the GPNA that helped to clarify expectations of conduct, security and communications going forward. Liz Alexander, one of the Task Force involved in working out the agreement, volunteered to be the neighborhood liaison for any issues that may arise between the neighbors and the tenant groups of the Church.

Please feel free to contact her, if you have any issues, comments or questions. Her e-mail is junebug@iinet.com, and her home phone is 503-331-1381. A general meeting for all interested neighbors with the Church, PICS, the Lee Owens school will be scheduled for January 2008.

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Fernwood SUN Program

Fernwood SUN School will offer two great opportunities for adults this fall, located conveniently at Fernwood school, 1915 NE 33rd Avenue.

The first is Spanish for Beginners (6:30 to 7:30 pm on Wednesdays, October 3rd--December 19th). This Spanish class will be taught by Nina Frayne, a native speaker with 15 years experience teaching Spanish to Americans. The class will continue in the Winter and Spring as a progression from this beginning term. The cost is \$70.00, inclusive.

The second offering is Capoeira for Beginners. Capoeira is a Brazilian martial art that blends kicks, sweeps, and acrobatics with traditional Brazilian rhythms and songs. It is simultaneously a martial art, a dance, a game, a philosophy, a language, and a ritual. (the first class is free, there after drop in or monthly rates apply--come and give it a try! 6:00--7:15 pm, Tuesdays & Thursdays, October 2nd--December 20th).

To register for Spanish or Capoeira please call Lindsay King at (503) 916-5314 or by e-mail at lking@portlandimpact.org--Thanks!

New Pastor at GPC

Grant Park Church has called Gregg Sneller to serve as pastor to the neighborhood. You will see Gregg walking and riding on his bicycle around the neighborhood, often accompanied by Spike. Gregg hopes to develop a web page at www.churchdogs.com. That venture is in process.

Stewardship and care for the earth has been a lifelong passion for Gregg, as well as bicycling. Recently with the youth at Portland International Community School, Gregg told three things about himself. One was a lie. First, Gregg spent a night in solitary confinement jailed. Second, Gregg has bicycled 4,700 miles across the United States. Third, Gregg has six children. You decide.

Gregg's greatest hope is that people will know they are loved by God and are able to love themselves. Gregg has said, "It's a gift to serve in such a wonderfully diverse caring neighborhood. Thanks to all who have warmly welcomed my family."



Urban Crossroads Approved

Redevelopment of the former Albina Fuel Co. property gained approval of the Portland Design Review Commission this month. It has been a long process (beginning in the summer of '00) from zone changes to final design approval.

Urban Crossroads was among the single largest projects ever to be reviewed by the Design Commission---five sessions were required before the Commission would sign off on plans for this critical site. The development team was working within a

very narrow "development envelope" based on terms from the zone change that required the minimum number of housing units also be the maximum. The Commission recognized the "gateway" nature of this site---leading to at least three neighborhoods. The "rotunda" at NE Broadway and 33rd is intended to mark this important intersection.

Development will be divided into three phases, with phases one and two expected to follow in quick succession. The third phase must return for design review in the future.

Phase One contains five buildings between Broadway and Weidler. This phase has 40,000 sf of commercial, 168 residential units, 90 commercial parking spaces accessed off Broadway and 210 residential parking space--structured below and accessed off NE 32nd. Both NE Weidler and Halsey are continued into the site to give access to smaller commercial spaces and to live/work units.

Phase Two features 151 live/work and conventional residential units and 45,000 sf of commercial.

The southern portion of the five-acre site is landscaped and was designed to support the Sullivan's Gulch Trail. Access to the future Trail is provided by a path leading down from the intersection of NE Broadway and 33rd.

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Farmer's Market

Located on NE Hancock between 44th and 45th, one block South of Sandy, the Hollywood Farmer's Market is open Saturdays from 8 am to 1 pm and will run through October 29. This year, the market will continue into November with reduced hours! Days and hours are: Nov 3, 10 & 17 from 9 am to 1 pm, so come check it out.

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Schedule of School Events 2007

- Up events for Grant HS and Fernwood/Hollyrood K-8:
- 10/4 Grant HS - back to school night and library used book sale
- 10/12 No school
- 10/23 Grant HS Vocal Concert at 7:30
- 10/25 Fernwood/Hollyrood Spooka RAMA
- 10/26 No School
- 11/9 No School
- 11/12 No School (veteran's day)
- 11/17 Celebrate the Talent Grant Gala and Auction at the Tiffany Center
- 11/19-21 Fernwood/Hollyrood No School Scholastic Book Sales at Hollyrood
- 11/22-23 No School - Thanksgiving Holiday
- 11/27-28 Coffee Conversation w/ Principal in Library
Fernwood 8:30 am - 9:30 am
- 12/3 No school
- 12/19 Grant HS Holiday Concert Rehearsal 7:00 pm
- 12/20 Grant HS Holiday Concert 7:00 pm
- 12/20 - 1/04 Winter Break No school

School Hours:

- Grant HS - 8:05 am - 3:01 pm.
Lunch - 11:37 until 12:19 pm
- Fernwood - 8:30 am - 3:00 pm.
- Hollyrood - 8:30 am - 2:45 pm.

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Neighborhood Schools

As this school year proceeds, you may notice that our neighborhood's students have some new routines, as Hollyrood Elementary School and Fernwood Middle School have been consolidated. The school is now known officially as Hollyrood-Fernwood School and it is one of several new K-8 schools across the city.

Attendance has increased at the school—now almost 600 students—due to the District's recent reconfiguration and redrawing of the school's boundaries which took effect in September 2006.

At the Hollyrood building, there are one half-day and two full-day kindergarten classes, a mixed-age K/1 class, two first grade classes and two classes at second grade. Melissa Dragich, formerly the principal at Buckman Elementary, will be assistant principal of the Hollyrood site.

At the Fernwood building, teachers work with third through eighth graders. Third and fourth grade classrooms are located on the main floor, close to the office and library. The fifth through eighth graders are located on the second floor. Linda Kapranos, formerly the principal of Fernwood Middle School, is heading up the new school and will keep her office in the Fernwood building, as will Assistant Principal Vern Marshall.

It remains important for the community to be aware of the fact that much younger children will be crossing NE 33rd to attend school, so motorists should be extra observant of pedestrians and of the speed limit.

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Fernwood has undergone considerable renovation to accommodate the children and provide for their safety. You may have noticed this summer that two outdated modular buildings were demolished to make way for safe parking and transit for the new youngsters on campus. A new playground will be added in October.

There has been some discussion of building a new school in the neighborhood through either a private-public partnership or by use of capital bonds. Until that happens, however, this will undoubtedly be the arrangement for the K-8.

It might not seem to be an ideal situation, having the school spread across two campuses on opposite side of Grant Park but the grade splits into two buildings have accomplished several things. The Hollywood building is still providing high quality education for early and primary level learners; both buildings are pooling educational resources--for instance, music, art and physical education--which enhances learning and saves costs; and, the school as a whole is strengthened by eliminating the back-and-forth of the Laurelhurst transition at fourth grade.

The staff is working hard to ensure that students have a positive and smooth transition, and teachers have identified many ways to make this happen. The community, too, has been quick to join together.

In August, more than 200 people showed up on a Saturday morning for Community Care Day, a day dedicated to sprucing up Portland's public school grounds.

If you would like e-mail updates and information, you can subscribe at <http://tinyurl.com/3azuzf>. The community is also invited to participate in the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) and the Local School Advisory Committee (LSAC); you do not have to be a parent, just a concerned member of the community. Meetings will be announced. Information is available on the school website (www.hollywood-fernwood.org).

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Hollywood at Night

Every third Thursday, Hollywood businesses host "Hollywood at Night" from 6 - 9 pm with music, treats, discounts and drawing for prizes so come on down and join the fun. You can check the Hollywood Boosters web site, www.HollywoodBoosters.com, for more information, and pick up event guides at participating businesses each month.

"Citizen Planners" Plot Future

On Saturday, July 30, 2007, seventy community members spent three hours at PSU brainstorming potential future streetcar corridors as an informal kick-off to the City-wide rail plan process that will formally launch in September. A few common suggested routes emerged:

- * North on MLK or Williams/Vancouver to Alberta or Killingsworth
- * East on Hawthorne, Division or Woodstock, ultimately connecting with the Green Line MAX
- * A line on 82nd Avenue
- * Extending the Burnside line out to Hollywood via Sandy and/or through the Lloyd District on Broadway/Weidler

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Sullivan's Gulch Corridor Trail Project

The Sullivan's Gulch Corridor Trail project moved one step closer to reality this summer with a contribution of \$224,00 from the Metro Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program and another \$26,00 from the City of Portland, for a study of engineering, construction and legal obstacles.

The trail as proposed would run about 4.3 miles along Sullivan's Gulch and the I-84 freeway. It would start at the Eastbank Esplanade at the Willamette River and run to the Gateway area, where it would join with the I-205 Trail and the Springwater corridor.

This trail would be an off road bicycle and pedestrian route and be considered both a commuting and a recreational trail.

The idea came from local walkers and bicyclist who envisioned the corridor as a missing link to alternative transportation on the east side. Groups formed to look into the possibilities and, in 2003, a Portland State University graduate class did a feasibility study on the Corridor. The PSU study can be found at: <http://atfiles.org/files/pdf/SullivansGulchRWT.pdf>.

Metro has included the idea for a trail along the Sullivan's Gulch corridor in its Regional Trails and Greenway System plan and the City of Portland Public Parks and Recreation Department has included the Gulch Trail in its 2020 Vision Plan. The Sullivans Gulch Trail is also part of the Portland Department of Transportation's Bicycle Master Plan.

With this injection of planning money, it will be possible to start talking to the property owners of the land underneath the proposed trail, as well as those along side the corridor.

At this point, some of the proposed access points for this neighborhood would be NE 12th, 21st, and 28th.

The Sullivans Gulch and Irvington Neighborhood Associations have asked the Grant Park Neighborhood to assist with a letter of support for the trail and the project.

Other information on the project may be found at: <http://www.sullivansgulch.org/news/trails.asp> and <http://www.metro-region.org/article.cfm?articleID=3940&do=details&pid=1838>

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