



Grant Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Winter 2009

Irvington's Historic District and Grant Park

For a number of years, a group of Irvington neighborhood residents have discussed creating a National Historic District. You may have noticed the "Historic Irvington" caps on street signs in the neighborhood. These were created when the City set aside a large portion of the neighborhood as a Conservation District which has little/or no impact on zoning, demolition, or density. Also, many historic structures and large sections were excluded from the Conservation District to satisfy future development pressures.

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is encouraging this effort because of the large number of individual homes (32) in Irvington that have already been proposed and awarded National Historic status; four located outside the Conservation District. The neighborhood also contains a number of designated city landmarks. The urging was "don't do this one house at a time; nominate the entire neighborhood."

By 2008 the Community Association had set aside adequate funds to begin the process. An architectural historian was retained and volunteers were trained and began gathering the required survey data. More than 2700 structures were researched, photographed and entered into the State's Historic database. More than eighty percent were determined to be eligible and contributing to the historic context of the neighborhood. This effort is the largest attempted in the State and the first carried out primarily by volunteers.

An important aspect of the work has been determining the boundaries of the proposed district. Original plat drawings were used to determine the boundaries. In examining the plats (1890-1911) to the east, it was noted that some plats extended into the Grant Park Neighborhood (as defined by the City's Office of Neighborhood Involvement).

The middle of NE 26th has been the traditional neighborhood division since the 1970s, but the original plats extended to a portion of the middle of NE 28th (south of NE Knott and north of NE Schuyler). Although the designated historic district would not effect the Neighborhood Association boundaries or services, the Grant Park Neighborhood Association has been asked and agreed to permit an overlap of these homes with the Irvington neighborhood for this purpose, as have Sabin and Alameda Neighborhoods.

Letters providing detailed information to homeowners in the overlap blocks will be sent soon, and all property owners will have an opportunity to vote on the district (simple majority).

Some of the benefits of a National Historic District designation are that it:

- Protects the architectural and historical qualities of the neighborhood
- Builds community pride and awareness of history

(continued on page 2)

www.grantpark-na.org

IN THIS ISSUE

Census 2010
RideConnection
and more ...

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

December 1, 2009
Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
Grant Park Church
2728 N.E. 34th Ave.
(at Knott)

Grant Park Neighborhood Association is open to ALL persons living within its boundaries. We invite our neighbors to involve themselves in neighborhood affairs. If something prevents you from participating, please contact a Board members.

AGENDA

Scheduled:
Portland Police update
Radon presentation
RideConnection
City Planning update

FUTURE MEETINGS (tentative)

December 1, 2008 (General)
January 5, 2009 (Board)
February 23, 2009 (General)
March 30, 2009 (Board)
May 4, 2009 (General)

GPNA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Liz Alexander 503-331-1381

Cori Jacobs 503-281-6514

(continued from page 1)

- All contributing buildings are eligible (research fee required) for Special Assessment (tax freeze)
- Protection from demolition of historic properties
- Guidelines to assist when planning an alteration
- Leniency in code requirements to protect the historic resource (e.g. porch railing height)
- Increases and maintains property values

If you have questions contact Mary Piper, Historic Preservation Committee, Irvington Community Association, 503 288 9234 or dsmithpiper@msn.com.

Editors Note: We would urge any Grant Park Residents that may be affected by the Historic District Overlay to exercise due diligence before deciding on this issue. There are pluses and minuses that accompany this designation.

Find out more at Portland Bureau of Development Services, Historic Design Reviews <http://www.portlandonline.com/bds> the and at the State Historic Preservation Office, http://egov.oregon.gov/OPRD/HCD/NATREG/nrhp_historicdistrict.shtml, where Ian Johnson is the National Register Coordinator (503.986.0678). The City contact is Liza Mickle, City Planner, 503 823 7666 lmickle@ci.portland.or.us



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2010 Census-It's In Our Hands

"It's In Our Hands" is the catch phrase for the 2010 Census community outreach before the Census questionnaires are sent out in March of 2010.

Why have a Census?

The U.S. Constitution requires a national Census once every 10 years. All U.S. residents must be counted; all races all ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens. It is supposed to be a snapshot of the United States on Census Day 2010, April, 1.

The Census questionnaire will be mailed or handed out to every household in the U.S. If you do not return the questionnaire you can expect a visit from the Census taker.

Why is it important?

Every year the federal government can allocate over \$300 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data. Local governments and community planners rely on census data to determine needs for services and funding. Even the number of Representatives to Congress can be affected by census numbers. In fact, Oregon could be in line for another Representative depending on census counts.

Locally, the Census Bureau is looking for job applicants for temporary assignments, most lasting for 5 to 10 weeks. To apply for a census job, call 1-866-861-2010. For more information on the 2010 Census visit <http://www.census.gov/2010census/>.

The local representative for Census 2010 is: Buena L. Price: email at bprice.uscensus@yahoo.com or call 503-956-3668.

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Ride Connection

Ride Connection is a nonprofit, service organization created to link accessible, responsive transportation with community needs. Ride Connection coordinates over 30 providers and schedule's over 358,000 rides for more than 10,500 individuals annually.

Through a citizen committee's recommendation and with the support of TriMet, Ride Connection was incorporated as a private non-profit on May 26, 1988 to meet the need for the elderly and persons with disabilities to have transportation.

Ride Connection's Mobility Trainers provide one-to-one travel training on all transportation options in our community. The RideWise program educates individuals to use all services more effectively. Together, we are working to improve the lives of older adults and people with disabilities in Oregon. For more information contact 503.528.1720 or e-mail: ride@rideconnection.org.

Newsletter Delivery

All the GPNA newsletter delivery routes are filled. Thanks to all our dedicated volunteers who tell us that it is wonderful to meet and greet their neighbors. We are still in need of a few people to do the route drop offs. There are a total of 47 routes which are in clusters, near each other. The route drop off person takes 5-8 routes in a cluster and drops off the bundled newsletters at the delivery folks' door. If you would be able to help with this, please give me a call.

We also need a point person to coordinate the process. If you could take this on for a year or two (that would only be 4 or 8 issues!), please call Merryll 503.282.5446. Thank you.

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Land Use In Grant Park

The only pending land use issue in Grant Park is the Appeal of the decision by the City of Portland, to allow the partition of the property at 2208 NE 28th Ave into three lots, two vacant and one including the existing structure.

An appeal of that decision was filed by a group of neighbors with the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA). Both sides have filed briefs and the decision by LUBA is scheduled to be announced on December 22, 2009. If the decision is upheld, the owners will be allowed to proceed with the partition of the property.

One more possible land use action would be a small number of homes in the Grant Park Neighborhood boundary being included in an Irvington Historic District Overlay. Information on this can be found in another article in this issue.

Area Schools - Winter 2009

Our neighborhood schools are now in session. The school winter break this year will be from December 21, 2009 to January 1, 2010 and many kids will be out and about, so be careful and watch out for them.



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Schools and Parks Conditional Use Code Refinement Project

On January 12, 2010, there will be a public hearing at the Planning Commission regarding proposals set forth by Portland Public Parks and Recreation (PP&R). The proposals concern possibly changing the Code concerning regulations on the uses and changes to Park and Portland Public Schools (PPS) recreational fields.

According to Brett Horner, PP&R Planning Manager, these changes are needed to provide clarity and a balanced and reasonable alternative to cumbersome Conditional Use processes. The proposed changes are the result of conversations with the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS), the Bureau of Development Services (BDS) and PPS.

“The (current) code discourages efficient use of the existing available fields...and also falls short of meeting the needs of neighbors, because the ability to balance the load evenly across the system and provide play options closer to home is stymied.”

“The proposal focuses on preventing the type of problems that have previously occurred in Portland...It is intended to provide greater clarity to all stakeholders, and provide a more effective method for addressing neighborhood concerns, even when proposed changes fall below the threshold for conditional use.”

The changes would remove some of the automatic “triggers” that called for the Conditional Use process to kick in. In return there would be a requirement for more notifications of proposed field changes.

There are many who have testified at previous public hearings that these changes are not needed, in fact the Conditional Use process is needed to ensure

public input and defined guidelines for these field changes. Some have accused the Parks and School District of choosing to ignore the current rules.

You can find more information on this topic at: <http://www.portlandonline.com/bps>.

If you are interested in learning more about the work on recreational fields please contact Brett Horner, PP&R Strategy and Planning Manager, at 503.823.1674. You can also contact Julia Gisler, City Planner Portland BPS, with your questions or comments, 503.823.7624.

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Upcoming Special Services:

Waiting for the Light – December 6, 10:30 am
We will chant and receive an individual blessing as we wait for the returning of the light. Led by Rev. Susan Maginn.

Solstice – December 20, 10:30 am
This day we honor the winter solstice with silence and stillness, music and poetry.

The Candles of Christmas – December 24, 5pm
A traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service honoring the season. Led by Rev. Susan Maginn.
Children are welcome at this evening service; however, if you would like to have childcare please contact minister@wyeastuu.org.

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