



Grant Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Winter 2011

ONI... NECN... GPNA... What are they?

First let's get the acronyms out of the way.

ONI, Office of Neighborhood Involvement.

"Promote a culture of civic engagement by connecting and supporting all Portlanders working together and with government to build inclusive, safe and livable neighborhoods and communities."

ONI is the top of the citizen involvement food chain being that it is a full fledged Bureau in the City of Portland, just like the Fire Bureau, Police Bureau, Bureau of Environment Services the Bureau of Development Services and so on. It is headed by a Commissioner, Amanda Fritz, has a budget, and is funded by the City. ONI has four main departments, the Neighborhood Resource Center, Information and Referral, Crime Prevention and Livability and Operations.

NECN, the North East Coalition of Neighborhoods

The next level is NECN, one of seven district coalitions in Portland including the Alameda, Boise, Concordia, Eliot, Grant Park, Humboldt, Irvington, King, Sabin, Sullivan's Gulch, Vernon and Woodlawn neighborhoods.

The mission of the coalition is to work under ONI, to advance neighborhood livability through highly inclusive civic engagement, helping citizens to become directly involved in determining how their neighborhood evolves.

GPNA, Grant Park Neighborhood Association

The final and most localized piece is the GPNA, Grant Park Neighborhood Association, which strives to help the local neighbors to keep connected and informed about the issues that may affect us and events that occur in and around our neighborhood. Part of our communications strategy is to put out a newsletter four times a year, preceding each of our General Meetings. We try to preview events, issues and speakers in our upcoming meetings to try to engage the community.

We also maintain a website, www.grantpark-na.org/ with links to our minutes from previous Board and General Meetings, copies of old newsletters, a map and statistics about the Grant Park neighborhood, information on current issues and links to government offices and other neighborhood associations.

The hierarchy of this system works like this: ONI works with the City on researching public policies concerning citizen involvement and neighborhood livability. The seven district coalitions receive money from the city, through ONI, to support staff and an office to serve and support the neighborhoods in their coalitions. At the district level, a Board made up of members of the

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www.grantpark-na.org

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NEXT GENERAL MEETING

February 8, 2010
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:

Call to Order - Introductions
Minutes – Read and Approve
Treasurer's Report
Grant Fields Report
Police Report
Direction for the GPNA
Plans for the Cleanup
Upgrade the web site?

FUTURE MEETINGS

(tentative)

February 8, 2011 (General)
March 8, 2011 (Board)
May 3, 2011 (General)

GPNA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President/Land Use:

Geoff Hyde 503-281-4097

Vice President:

Ron Laster 503-287-9566

Treasurer:

Secretary:

Mary Cal Hanson 503-288-2878

Communications:

KC Davenport 503-288-3340

At Large:

Liz Alexander 503-331-1381

Cori Jacobs 503-281-6514

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AS CHRIST’S HANDS AND FEET”**

503-282-5596

Neighborhood Tree Stewards

Help Portland create a directory of neighborhood tree stewards and liaisons. Portland Parks & Recreation is currently compiling contact information for a Neighborhood Tree Steward Directory. This is a great way for you to get in touch with other tree enthusiast in your neighborhood that share your interests.

Click Here and fill out this short questionnaire to give us permission to post your information in the upcoming directory. If you have any questions please contact Autumn Montegna, Urban Forest Outreach Coordinator for Portland Parks & Recreation at 503-701-7622 or autumn.montegna@portlandoregon.gov.

Green Building Hotline

The FREE Regional Green Building Hotline which provides practical and impartial information about green home strategies, resources and incentives for new and existing commercial and residential projects in the region.

Find answers to your questions. Call us, we can help.

- Phone: 503.823.5431
- Web: www.buildgreen411.com
- Tweet! @greenhotline
- Facebook: Green Development Resource Center

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Grant Fields Progress

From GPNA President Geoff Hyde

Some of you may have noticed that surveying has begun in the Bowl and on the baseball/soccer field. This is preliminary work being done to determine the expected costs and scope of the field improvements proposed at Grant Park and Grant High School. The preliminary estimate is \$3,000,000 to do the improvements proposed. At this date the Friends of Grant Athletics reports that they have raised between \$477,000 and \$541,000 for the project.

The school district had pledged \$2,000,000 in 2007 to fund so called “soft” costs in replacement or restoration of playing fields for all ten of the districts high schools. Soft costs are project management and design costs and do not include capital costs. A new formula was worked out by the superintendent based on the 2010 free and reduced lunch data to equitably disperse the fields funding. In this formula, Grant High was eligible for \$91,687. This formula also provided money for Marshall High School which will now be closing so it is unknown if the amounts to each school will change.

It is also not completely clear if the project will go forward on the proposed schedule of breaking ground in May 2011 for a September 2011 completion. The GPNA Board was told at our January meeting that, although it was preferable to have all funds by May, it would be possible to do the project in pieces as money became available. Resolution No. 4347, passed by the School Board on September 27, 2010, states “Fields projects may only move forward as full project funding becomes available through community fund raising and corporate sponsorships.” The affect of this statement pertaining to the Grant project is not known at this time.

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Grant High School Sports Fields

From PPS, as of January 13, 2011

As many of you know, the fields at Grant High School and Grant Park are currently in poor condition and are unplayable for much of the rainy, winter months.

Portland Public Schools (PPS) is managing the process to improve three athletic fields on Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) and PPS property around Grant Park and Grant High School.

Planned improvements will include: Installing synthetic turf in the bowl and upper baseball/ soccer field; Resurfaced the track; Refurbished the natural grass turf at the Hollyrood Field; Installing pedestrian-pathway lighting around the bowl; Adding a landscaped berm along US Grant Place; Adding security lighting between buildings on the Grant High School campus

PPS and PP&R entered into a formal agreement with Friends of Grant Athletics (FOGA) to raise funds for the project. Information at www.friendsofgrant.org

The design process will be complete in May 2011. Construction will follow immediately based on successful fund raising efforts to cover the cost.

An open house is planned for Tuesday, February 15 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Grant High School foyer. This is an informal session; the project team will answer questions and provide an overview of the design during this open house.

For more information contact Bob Downing, PP&R, 503-823-1619 or Marlys Mock, PPS, 503-916-3913 or visit www.portlandonline.com/parks/ click on "Projects" then "Park and Facility Projects" then scroll to "Grant Fields Improvement Project".

Albina Fuel Update

The clean-up at the old Albina Fuel site (33rd & Broadway) is still ongoing. Two of the three buildings that were on the site are gone and the third one should be removed in the next few months. There were some complaints about noise from the rock crusher that was on site, but those have been resolved and the crushing has stopped. Because of transient activities, the police have been given permission to enter the site, so neighbors are encouraged to report any suspicious activity.

With the down economy, plans to develop the site after the clean-up are on hold at this point. So once the clean-up is finished, the site will be put to bed.

Kindergarten Round-Up

February 17th • 9am-10am or 6:30pm-7:30pm • at the Beverly Cleary School - Hollyrood Campus • 3560 NE Hollyrood Ct.

Learn about the kindergarten program; meet the principal, assistant principal, and teachers; and visit classrooms. The Round-Up officially kicks off registrations for the 2011-2012 school year. This event is for parents only. For more information call Beverly Cleary - Hollyrood Campus at 503-916-6766.

Project Coyote

Urban coyotes are all around us. Researchers at Portland State and Alameda Elementary are beginning a study of these coyotes and would welcome your help. If you see a coyote please report the sighting and share your stories at browerb@pdx.edu. For more information www.projectcoyote.com. You should also report it to the Audobon Society of Portland at 503-292-0304 or bsallinger@audobonportland.org.

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ONI... NECN... GPNA...

Neighborhood Associations, runs the coalition as a non-profit, tax exempt organization. In addition, the NECN and other coalitions budget money to each NA for communications purposes, to pay for newsletters, etc. Most of the NA's also have advertising in their newsletters and fund raisers to pay other NA expenses and for charitable giving.

Grant Park, along with the other NA's, has a special place in the planning process of the city in that they are notified of all land use actions in their neighborhoods and can even appeal decisions at no charge at the local level.

Why should you care about any of this?

One, your taxes help pay for it. Beyond that, it is about your neighborhood, your street, your neighbors and your family. It helps to keep you in the loop; it can educate you on the policies and procedures of the City. It can give you a heads up to changes in your area before the decisions are made. You can find out how you can get involved in the process.

What do we want from you?

Your input, your participation and your help. Right now we have board members that are covering two positions, sitting on multiple committees and trying to keep up with as many of the activities and issues going on in the City as they can. Very simply, more hands make the job easier for all of us.

There have been some discussions about some policy decisions made by the Board. We do the best we can to be inclusive but, "The world is run by them that shows up," and that is true when it comes to neighborhood groups. If you have a point of view you think needs to be considered you need to "show up," and you need to participate. We are always open to new ideas and ways to make our neighborhood better so join us in that goal. We will thank you.

GPNA Website

Come to the February meeting and tell us what you would like to see on the GPNA web site. We would like to enhance the website and make it more interactive, but we need to know what you want. It will also take time and effort to build and manage. We are all unpaid volunteers investing in our neighborhood. We need help. You could be the one.

Important Numbers

Part of what makes a good neighborhood is good infrastructure. For that to happen the City relies on citizens to report problems so that they can be tracked and/or fixed in a timely manner. Here are some useful numbers. A more complete list can be found on the Humboldt Neighborhood web site at: http://humboldtneighborhood.org/?page_id=300

Emergency911

- Portland Police Non-Emergency 503-823-3333
or online at: www.portlandonline.com/police/
- Portland Police Information 503-823-4636
- Fire Department Information 503-823-3700
- Call before you dig811
- Road Conditions511

Reporting

- Traffic/Streets
 - Traffic Signals not working 503-823-1700
 - Traffic Safety Hotline503- 823-7233
 - Pothole Hotline 503-823-2867
 - Street Maintenance 503-823-1700
 - Abandoned Cars 503-823-7309
 - Street Cleaning 503-823-1778
- Downed Trees 503-823-4489
- Sewer/Sidewalk
 - Sewer Repair Emergencies 503-823-1700
 - Water Main Breaks 503-823-4874
 - Sidewalk Repair 503-823-1711
 - Street Light Out 503-823-5216
- Issues
 - Power Outages (Pacific Power) . . . 877-548-3768
 - Gas Odor (NW Natural) 800-882-3377
 - Graffiti Removal 503-823-4824
 - Mental Health Crisis Line 503-988-4888
 - Noise Control 503-823-7350
 - Nuisances (weeds, trash, etc.) 503-823-7306
 - Vector Control (rats, mosquitoes, etc) 503-988-3464
 - Animal Services (cats, dogs, etc.) . . 503-988-7387

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