

Grant Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

summer 2017



Grant Park Neighborhood Cleanup 2017

By Stacey Tipp

On Saturday, May 20, Grant Park had its annual neighborhood cleanup. The event was hosted by Grant Park Church, in the church's parking lot on the corner of NE Knott and NE 34th Avenue. This is the neighborhood association's annual fundraiser, with all proceeds from the event going toward local neighborhood projects and events. It is an opportunity for folks to clean out junk from their homes and garages, to recycle responsibly, and to share unwanted, usable items with their neighbors.

The cleanup was a great success! The weather was perfect! We had 92 cars and 40 vans/trucks come through with loads to drop off. People brought trash, scrap metal, batteries, small appliances, items to share, and more. Many people walked away with that special "find" that someone else no longer needed, reducing the amount that went into the dumpsters. In spite of that, we were so busy that we had to end the event a half hour early because all of our five 30 yard dumpsters were full!

We also used the cleanup as an opportunity for neighbors to donate to the William Temple House food pantry. Many thanks to everyone who brought donations of canned and dried goods to share with the needy families served by this organization.

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www.grantpark-na.org

STAY IN TOUCH

Find us at Facebook:
[GrantParkNeighborhood](https://www.facebook.com/GrantParkNeighborhood);
Tweet us at [@GPNAPortland](https://twitter.com/GPNAPortland)
Join our discussion group at: groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/gpna-forum
Or join us at: grantparkor.nextdoor.com

GPNA MEETINGS

Meetings are held quarterly on the third Tuesday of the month. Our annual meeting, when elections are held is in April. Special meetings, when needed, may be scheduled at any time. Meetings are open.

Grant Park Neighborhood Association is open to ALL persons living or working within its boundaries. If you need special accommodations, please contact a Board member.

NEXT MEETING & AGENDA

Board Meeting Jun 20, 2017
Board Meeting Sept 19, 2017
Regular Meeting Nov 21, 2017

To check the meeting schedule and agenda, or to suggest an agenda topic, please go to: grantpark-na.org/thehood/meetings.html

GPNA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President:

Ken Peterson

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Ron Laster

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Stacey Tipp

Olive Louise

Patrick Schmidt

Land Use Chair:

Ken Peterson

Contact the board at:

general@grantpar-na.org

At the Grant Bowl -- Lights, Seating, Action!

By Ken Peterson

Generations of Grant High School (GHS) students have lamented the absence of bleacher seating and night lighting to enable evening sports events to take place at the Grant Park bowl. These issues have arisen in the past and proven to be challenging, with students and Portland Public Schools (PPS) being in favor of adding the seats and lights, and some homeowners, particularly those who live near the park, being opposed.

PPS recently received an offer from a Grant High alum to help fund seats and lights at the Mark Cotton Bowl. The first of two currently planned meetings to gauge public reaction occurred on May 22 at the Grant High library. Approximately 70 people attended despite relatively short notice of the event, a majority of whom appeared to be nearby homeowners.

Event organizers and participants included GHS officials, Carol Campbell, principal; Diallo Lewis, vice principal; and PPS officials Marshall Haskins, district athletic director; Sara King, director of planning and asset management; and Cameron Vaughan-Tyler, strategic partnership outreach and development.

As background, organizers explained that Grant High is the only high school in its athletic league that does not have night lighting and bleachers for evening games. This adversely affects the morale of student athletes, inhibits creating a sense of school community, and impedes the success of GHS teams. Teams are also disadvantaged by not being able to practice during the winter months due to early seasonal darkness.

At the outset, organizers made the very preliminary nature of the potential project clear, and explained that the intent of the meeting was to get a sense of support or opposition to the proposed field improvements. Unfortunately, the absence of concrete information resulted in often equivocal responses from the audience.

Among the issues raised by attendees:

- How many and how often would events be held?
- Lighting late at night could be intrusive. What limitations would there be on lighting hours?
- Bright field lighting could adversely affect nearby neighbor livability by shining through windows.
- Additional events involving amplification would increase noise affecting neighborhood livability.
- Large-scale evening events would adversely impact already scarce parking around the school.
- There are currently inadequate restroom facilities (mostly porta potties) and additional permanent restrooms should be a part of any project.
- Trash and litter are already a problem. This would worsen without adequate post-event cleanup arrangements and additional trash receptacles. Should GHS students be asked to take on this responsibility? That might promote good habits that would also lessen current litter in the park.
- Since the bowl is actually owned by Portland Parks and Recreation (PPR), even if PPS agreed to limit the hours and number of events, what would prevent PPR from offering the facility for other uses to generate revenue?
- How many seats would be built, and how visible would they be from the street or nearby homes?
- Would any school bond money be spent on the project?

Organizers had partial answers to some of the questions and issues raised. They stated that new "down lighting" options would mitigate light leakage outside the bowl. No school bond money would be used. An effort will be made to have additional specific information by the next meeting, although having actual plans to review will be unlikely due to time and current budget constraints.

A second informational meeting will be held on Monday, June 12, from 7-8 p.m. It will also be at the Grant High library. PPS encourages anyone interested to attend.

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Grant Park Set To Have a NET

Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NETs) are Portland residents trained to provide emergency disaster assistance within their own neighborhoods until professional responders can arrive. These volunteers are specially trained to help others without putting themselves in harm's way. NET members are:

- Prepared to be self-sufficient for two weeks
- Able to provide emergency assistance
- Able to work within an emergency response team
- Able to guide untrained volunteers who want to help others during a disaster.

Recently, Portland NET members have been deployed at several different local events including the gas line explosion in NW Portland, winter weather events, and the recent warehouse fire in NE Portland.

14 Grant Park residents have finished the 30-hour NET Training. By the time this newsletter comes out, they will have also completed the Final Field Exercise to complete their training. They will then begin drawing up an Organization and Operations plan to establish a Grant Park NET. Officers will be elected, and the group will begin local training exercises, and formulating a Grant Park specific disaster response plan.

In support of this vital addition to the safety and preparedness of our neighborhood, GPNA has donated \$100 to the newly formed NET team to help defray the cost of their equipment.

If you are interested in becoming a NET, go to the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management website. www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem/
www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem/31667

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Disaster Preparedness News

by Linda Reisser

Map Your Neighborhood (MYN)

The Irvington Neighborhood Association hosted a meeting on April 9, 2017 about the MYN program developed by Washington State Emergency Management. Many people find that getting prepared is easier with the support of friends or neighbors. Participants shared examples of how they invited residents on their block to meet, get to know each other, and share ideas for preparedness.

Using MYN materials, they created plans for assisting each other after a disaster, and inventories of neighborhood skills and equipment. For more information: www.preporegon.org/PrepareWithNeighbors

Parents For Preparedness (P4P)

P4P is a network of people concerned about school safety in relation to earthquake risk. The mission of P4P is to advocate for sufficient resources for earthquake preparedness, promote best practices, and share information to improve the resiliency of Oregon's schools. P4P welcomes the participation of anyone concerned with earthquake preparedness who is ready to engage productively to support our schools. For more, see: portlandprepares.org/get-ready/parents-and-schools/

BEECN Training

A BEECN is a temporary radio communications site staffed after a major earthquake, where you can go when phones are down. The City of Portland has established 48 Basic Earthquake Emergency Communication Nodes (BEECNs) as support sites after a major earthquake. The nearest BEECN for the Grant Park neighborhood is NE-13 at Irvington Elementary School Field (1320 NE Brazee St.). The neighborhood hosted a training session on April 12, 2017. For more information and for upcoming trainings, see:

www.portlandoregon.gov/pbem/59630

First Aid and CPR Resources

The American Red Cross offers classes on Adult First Aid, CPR, and how to use to use an automated external defibrillator (AED). For a schedule, see the "Training and Certification" tab at: www.redcross.org A free Red Cross First Aid App can be downloaded to a cell phone, for instant access to expert advice.

Getting to Know Our Neighbors



The Orange Pippin Seed Society

Gardening is the most popular hobby in the U.S. and in Portland we're extra garden crazy. With our fertile soil, Mediterranean climate, and close proximity to the Willamette Valley, known worldwide for its innovative plant breeders, it's a gardener's paradise. It's rare to find a yard or balcony untouched by an enthusiastic planter.

"I caught the gardening bug when I moved into my Grant Park home 12 years ago and I've loved experimenting with everything from bananas trees to jungles of tomato plants," says Orange Pippin Seed Society founder, Bria Phillips. "I created a garden blog called Bell and Star to share my adventures in gardening in my home garden and in my community plot at Grant High."

Now mom to a three year old who is most at home digging in the dirt, Phillips decided to launch a line of seeds and gardening club for kids, The Orange Pippins Seed Society. The seeds are sold in garden kits that are created around various themes.

Growers are encouraged to connect with other families on Instagram by tagging their images with #orangepippins. All year long we'll be growing and learning together online and awarding prizes for things like Tallest Sunflower and Most Creative Edible Flower Recipe.

The full collection of Orange Pippin's seeds can be found at Hello! Good Morning! at 2419 NE Broadway St, Portland, OR 97232 or by visiting www.orangepippins.com.

GPNA Election Results

by Ken Peterson

As required by bylaws, election of GPNA officers took place at the organization's annual meeting in April. Despite considerable advance publicity concerning the meeting, an article in the last newsletter summarizing recent GPNA accomplishments, yard signs placed throughout the neighborhood, and a plea for more Grant Park residents to become involved, turnout for the annual meeting was small. The upside is that the GPNA board must be doing something right and ably representing Grant Park residents, given the absence of opposition or new candidates!

The election results are:

- Ken Peterson, president and land use chair;
- Ron Laster, vice-president and treasurer;
- MaryCal Hanson, secretary;
- Brian Cefola, communications chair & webmaster
- Members at large
Jane Comeault,
Olivia (Olive) Louise,
John Prell,
Patrick Schmidt, and
Stacey Tipp.

Olive is the only new addition to the board, and GPNA welcomes her. Kate Davenport will continue to serve as newsletter editor.

Your GPNA officers enjoy serving our neighborhood, but continue to need more voices and viewpoints to make the board function as well as possible. Members at large can be appointed at any time, so if you are interested please contact any current board member or attend a meeting.

Tutor: writing skills, reading support

My students are all ages: high schoolers needing extra support with writing, test preparation, and study skills; college students; adults writing job application cover letters; and elementary students learning to read and write.

I hold an MFA and teach at PSU. I have taught extensively throughout the region, at universities, through Literary Arts, and with all grade levels. I also work with non-native speakers through Multnomah County Library. I am the author of several books and work prolifically as a freelance writer.

Kirsten Rian: 503.348.5249, riankirsten@gmail.com

Grant High Construction Impacts

With the ending of the 2016-17 school year construction on Grant High is scheduled to start this summer. Students will move to the Marshall High campus in southeast Portland during construction and are expected to return to the modernized building in time for the 2019-20 school year.

With the start of construction at Grant, change is coming to the neighborhood. The impact on traffic and nearby neighbors is expected to be significant. There was a "Construction Impacts on the Grant Neighborhood Open House" on May 23rd in the Grant Library to inform neighbors, and ground breaking for the project was June 3rd. *(Neither event had been scheduled before the spring newsletter.)*

There will be future meetings and neighbors are encouraged to stay informed about the progress of the project as it develops. For more information and updates go to: www.pps.net/Page/474

Grant Park Village Phase 2

Work is also progressing on the Grant Park Village Phase 2 project, behind the very visible Phase 1 buildings at NE 33rd and Broadway. Phase 2 will be a five story tall, U-shaped building. It will have 167 units and 100 stalls of underground parking with features like a community room, fitness center, game room and racks for 198 bicycles.

The finished "village" will also feature an outdoor community space with a gas fire pit and lounge, a bike repair shop, and a pet spa with a grooming station. However the second phase is not expected to include more retail space. It is set to be completed in the first Quarter of 2018.



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2017 Relay for Life

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Portland, is a 24-hour event that celebrates cancer survivors and caregivers, honors those currently battling cancer, and remembers loved ones lost.

This year the event is Saturday, August 12, 2017 at 10am to Sunday, August 13, 2017 at 10am at Portland Christian School. There will be ceremonies, entertainment, onsite fundraisers and activities, educational activities, walking, and more.

Last year, the event raised over \$90,000 and had over 400 participants. This year, they hope to raise \$100,000 and have over 500 participants, and would love your help!

How can you help?


- Register a team for the event.
- Sponsor the event (many sponsorship levels).
- Donate in-kind gifts for a silent auction and a raffle.
- Put up a poster for Relay!
- And, more!

The money raised through the event supports the research, education, advocacy, and services of the American Cancer Society. It allows ACS to help people stay well, get well, find cures, and fight back against cancer.

For more information on the 2017 Relay For Life of Portland, please check out the website at : www.relayforlife.org/portlandor/; call: 650.520.4403; or e-mail: mkouye23@gmail.com.

They also have Relay For Life of Portland Committee Members who are willing to speak with you in person about the event.

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Grant Park Dog Off-Leash Area: What's Old is New Again

By Ken Peterson

For the past three years, GPNA has actively engaged with park users and Portland Parks and Recreation (PPR) to improve the dog off-leash area (DOLA) in Grant Park. The process has been a daunting one, with complex issues of conflicting uses (local soccer teams and Grant High sports versus dogs), noise (homeowners close to the park understandably complain about barking and trespassing dogs), safety (unfenced areas result in conflicts and near collisions among dogs and wheeled vehicle path users, as well as children who fear unrestrained dogs), aesthetics (some park users dislike the idea of a fenced area, fearing that it will degrade the park's appearance), and some who object to any kind of change whatsoever, because they just don't seem to like change.

In the end, the big losers in this process have been dogs and their human companions, who have seen their off leash access progressively shrink, both in terms of actual space and soon, access hours will be restricted as well.

Disclosure of plans to construct a softball field as part of the Grant High School (GHS) modernization brought new focus to all of these issues recently. Why? Because left field will be right in the middle of the current unfenced DOLA area next to the existing soccer field.

GPNA appointed a special subcommittee to address issues raised with little time to do so, because of a planned imminent public hearing to consider the GHS modernization plans. GPNA repeatedly requested assistance from both PPR and PPS to help identify alternative DOLA locations (or to rule them out for reasons that might not be apparent based upon simple visual inspection) with no concrete response. The subcommittee prepared a report suggesting two possible alternative locations for a fenced DOLA and GPNA held a special meeting to address the DOLA future in the park.

That meeting proved to be an acrimonious event with many complaints and objections, few positive solution ideas and little indication of willingness to compromise or consider new alternatives. GPNA has consistently tried to consider the viewpoints of all identifiable stakeholders while addressing this

issue, but found that many were interested only in advancing or protecting their own interests while marginalizing alternative perspectives. Given the absence of consensus, the GPNA board voted to dissolve the subcommittee and to leave the issue for PPR to resolve.

Shortly after, PPR elected to conduct a public meeting and did so on Thursday, April 20. According to Brett Horner, PPR Planning Manager, 34 people attended the meeting. Other PPR representatives included James Allison, Lands Stewardship Division Manager; Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong, Community Outreach & Involvement Program Manager; Mike Grosso, NE Parks Maintenance Supervisor; and Sylvia Ciborowski from JLA Public Involvement, who acted as meeting facilitator. Advance publicity indicated that PPR "had a proposal" involving the DOLA. As it turned out, the proposal was actually a decision already made by PPR to do...nothing.

As the meeting progressed, all of the issues set forth in the introductory paragraph to this article surfaced, often with the same vehemence and intransigence previously displayed at other meetings. Given the absence of identifiable consensus, it may not be surprising that PPR had decided to retain the status quo, even with all of its drawbacks. So, all of the conflicts and issues will likely remain, and the very active community of dog owners will likely be forced to stake out whatever available space they can.

As one travels through our neighborhood, there are abundant yard signs rightfully extolling the virtues of a welcoming and tolerant culture to everyone, whatever their origin. Perhaps it is time to consider those values as applicable to all, newcomers or existing residents, including dogs. Portland residents love their dogs and consider them family members. Just as some people bring their children to the park, others bring their dogs to play. Being able to do that at Grant Park is a long established tradition that will continue, with or without official sanction.

All projections indicate continued significant population growth in Portland, with all of the benefits and challenges that increased density brings. There will be more of us competing for recreational space, and seemingly fewer resources available to

accommodate all of our myriad activities. The “non-solution” proposed by PPR simply allows an already significant parks use issue to worsen over time and to result in more numerous future use conflicts and safety issues.

The Grant Park dog community must share some of the blame for this impasse. While other competing groups made concrete plans for future expansion, dog owners quarreled among themselves about location, fencing or no fencing, and which neighbors were being selfish because they didn’t want to live next to dogs who bark too long and too loudly. The end result is diminished DOLA space, shorter access hours, and the likelihood of greater conflicts with other park users.

PPR indicates that stricter enforcement of existing location and hour rules will be a part of future off leash use. However, there are apparently fewer than 20 park rangers for all the parks in Portland and no plans to hire more. Only time will tell whether the current non-solution will work, or whether it will simply be a brief cease-fire in the ongoing conflicts that exist among competing interest groups that use or live near the park.

Residential Permit Night is back!

As part of an ongoing effort to increase accessibility, the Bureau of Development Services (BDS) will host a Residential Permit Night for 1 & 2 Family Dwellings in the Development Services Center (DSC). The DSC will be open on Thursday nights from 5:00–7:30 p.m. to help homeowners and tenants with their residential projects. The DSC is located at 1900 SW 4th Ave at Harrison Street on the first floor.

City staff will be there to answer general questions about the permitting and land use processes, help homeowners and tenants understand what plans and documents will be required for review, and identify the necessary permits and inspections.

“Regular business hours make it somewhat difficult for working people and their families to get permits,” said Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, who is in charge of BDS. “These new hours will make things more accessible.” BDS Director Paul Scarlett added, “The City is excited to restart this important program.”

For more information go to:
www.portlandoregon.gov/bds/article/631767

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Cleanup Snapshots:

We would like to thank our sponsors, including Central Northeast Neighbors, Inc., especially their office manager Ronda Johnson, as well as Metro and the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability.

The event could not have happened without our many willing volunteers. They included Jane Comeault, Kate Davenport, Pastor Jeremy Richards, Brie Richards, Glasper West, Earnest Smith, Amber McDaniel, Cameron Eckhart, N'niko Carre-Smith, Maia McDaniel, Karyn Taylor, Andrea MacLeod, Jean Black, and Mary Cal Hanson.

The volunteers were also kept well hydrated and fed through the generosity of our community partners: QFC, New Seasons, and Starbucks.

