

Grant Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Summer 2018



What to Do About 33rd and Broadway?

by Ken Peterson

The intersection that most residents of Grant Park love to hate will soon face even more congestion due to planned development. The former Gordon's Fire-Place Shop, now to be known as Aircraft Factory based upon its original use, will be refurbished as a combined creative workspace with first floor retail enterprises, possibly including a restaurant. The former Jacksons convenience store will be demolished and replaced by a building that will fill the entire footprint of the property except for required sidewalks, much like the design of Grant Park Village across the street. The current design of the new building is for a 21-foot high single story structure with possible rooftop parking, although the proposal is very preliminary and could change substantially depending upon tenant acquisition.

InterUrban, the new owner of Aircraft Factory, has an admirable record of successfully repurposing historic buildings for current use. Renderings of the refurbished Gordon's building respect the heritage of the property and Grant Park will likely welcome the change. However, proposed changes to the intersection infrastructure surrounding the building raise a number of challenging questions.

The Sullivan's Gulch neighborhood (SGNA) and Grant Park share geographic jurisdiction over the area that includes the building. At a SGNA neighborhood land use committee meeting, in which Grant Park participated, InterUrban's architects presented possible intersection redesigns, all of which would likely impact traffic.

The first would retain the current two travel lanes in each direction. It would include a corner "bump out" to promote pedestrian safety, while keeping the current narrow sidewalk east of the corner enlargement, thereby retaining most, but not all, current street parking. This is Option 1.

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www.grantpark-na.org

2018 MEETINGS:

April 10 (Annual Meeting),
June 5 (Board),
September 11 (General), &
November 13 (Board)
Grant Park Church
2728 NE 34th Ave

(corner of 34th and Knott Streets)

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

GPNA MEETINGS

Our annual meeting, when elections are held is in April. Regularly scheduled meetings for the remainder of 2018 will be determined at the annual meeting. Special or emergency 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.

GPNA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Ken Peterson

Vice President:
Ron Laster

Treasurer:
Ron Laster

Secretary:
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At Large:
*Neon Brooks,
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Contact the board at:
general@grantpark-na.org

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Join our discussion group at: groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/gpna-forum
Or join us at: grantparkor.nextdoor.com

33rd and Broadway, continued

Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) wants to widen the sidewalk in front of the building several feet to match that of Grant Park Village, which would likely eliminate all street parking, but would retain two travel lanes east and west on Broadway. This was designated as Option 2.

Both Grant Park and Sullivan’s Gulch land use committees believe that adding a left turn lane on westbound Broadway at 33rd, thereby allowing vehicles direct access to I84 west, could improve traffic congestion and reduce the number of vehicles remaining on Broadway destined for downtown Portland. Many drivers currently use the vacant Jacksons lot, or some other creative alternative, to evade the “no left turn” prohibition on westbound Broadway at 33rd by making de facto U-turns. Once the new building on the Jacksons corner is in place that will no longer be possible, possibly leading to more traffic disrupting behavior.

One InterUrban proposal, consisting of a “road diet,” would provide such a left turn lane, but reduce the number of travel lanes in both directions on Broadway east of 33rd to one each from the current two in order to retain street parking, potentially creating a bottleneck. In support of this option, the developer asserted that most

vehicles traveling east on Broadway turned right at 33rd to use the I84 on ramp. This was Option 3.

Following the informational meeting, GPNA conducted an informal, brief, and anecdotal “traffic count” on June 5 during the morning commute to try to analyze current traffic conditions before the Portland schools summer recess, which could impact the number of vehicles. The goal of this process was to attempt to determine if claims made during the informational meeting were accurate. In short, they were not. Approximately half of the eastbound Broadway vehicles went straight at 33rd, probably to go east on I84 using the onramp at 37th/ Cesar Chavez. A very significant number of vehicles traveling south on 33rd also turned left on Broadway, presumably for the same reason.

After careful consideration of the proposed alternatives, the GPNA Board voted not to endorse any of them at this time. Rather, GPNA believes that a formal traffic study should be conducted either by PBOT or paid for by InterUrban, to clearly provide reliable data concerning the likely impact of any intersection changes before any alteration occurs. GPNA continues to work closely with SGNA to attempt to reach consensus about how best to approach these complex issues.



Newsletter Delivery Volunteers Needed!



From past issues, regular readers should know there are a cadre of volunteers that deliver each issue of the GPNA newsletter to all residents and businesses within the neighborhood borders. Sometimes delivery volunteers relocate or are no longer available for various reasons. At present, there are several open

routes in need of new deliverers. If you can help, please contact Marianne Lynde at 503-819-5324, mariannelynde@msn.com; or GPNA at general@grantpark-na.org.

Enjoy an opportunity for a little fresh air and exercise. Most routes involve just a couple of blocks, and delivery takes about 30 minutes. The newsletter is quarterly, so your total yearly time commitment would be just two hours. You may also meet some neighbors you don't already know!

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Updates

by Ken Peterson

The former Gordon's Fireplace building remodel is in final planning stages, and will be renamed Aircraft Factory, in acknowledgment of its early use. The closed Jacksons convenience store will be demolished and replaced with a completely new building. Please see accompanying article in this issue concerning 33rd and Broadway for more details.

Many have likely noticed closure of the franchised Burger King on Broadway near 35th. Despite ongoing efforts to obtain information from the BK Corporation, little more is known at press time concerning future use of the site, which is owned by the Lau Family Trust.

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Getting to Know Your Neighbors: The Central Portland Branch of Vocational Rehabilitation

by Lois Okrasinski

Who's in our neighborhood? When we think of the area around Grant Park we readily see the children, the families, all the houses, our schools and our beloved park itself. Then we remember nearby businesses, the places we thank our lucky stars for being able to walk or bike to, or push a stroller or maneuver a wheelchair into. But there's more. We are fortunate in this neighborhood to share space with non-profit enterprises.

On the very most southwestern corner of the Grant Park boundary, where N.E. 26th Avenue runs into Broadway, sits a multi-storied building that has recently been given a new look and several structural improvements. This building has housed various agencies providing public services over the years. On January 8, 2018, it became home to the Central Portland Branch of Vocational Rehabilitation, which is part of a voluntary federal program administered by states to help people with disabilities find employment and maintain independence. In Oregon, it is part of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Popping into the new front entryway, you'll notice an outer lobby that is spotless and an inner lobby with comfortable seating, attractive carpeting and a very nice ambiance.

Brittany, Janette, or Stan, who take turns at the front desk, greet people coming in.

One of approximately a dozen counselors on site, Laurie mentioned that working in our neighborhood has been so pleasant to the walkers in their office. At their former job site lunch-break walks took them past strip clubs and a six-lane highway. Now they enjoy racking up their Fitbit steps and noticing each new blossom in our neighborhood yards. They are glad to be here.

At this Vocation Rehabilitation office some potential clients come in off the street while others arrive with a counseling appointment already set by an authorized partnering agency. Additional methods of getting started are to watch a vocational rehabilitation orientation online or to attend a general orientation session, held on site most Tuesday afternoons. The Branch Manager is Kadie Ross, MS, CRC.

The process a disabled person goes through in obtaining suitable employment starts with an evaluation of the specific challenges the individual faces. Next, a counselor prepares a written rehabilitation plan. Services begin with vocational counseling and guidance right through accepting a job offer and beginning work. Once on the job a person may receive help in maintaining that work and in overcoming barriers. The DHS vocational rehabilitation counselors utilize all the various aspects of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). We can be proud knowing that all of this, too, is part of the fabric of our lives in the Grant Park Neighborhood.

Nextdoor: The Good and Not So Good

by Stacey Tipp

The following was written before Stacey Tipp's recent relocation to Coral Gables, Florida. There she is getting to know her new neighbors via Nextdoor Grenada East.

For those who are unfamiliar with Nextdoor, it is a free website that connects neighbors together. When you join, you specify your neighborhood, and are then connected with people in your particular location, in our case, Grant Park. Neighbors can post events, offer items for sale or for free, request help (e.g., publicize lost dogs, lost property, ask to borrow a tool, etc.), ask for recommendations for contractors and other services, as well as offer information or ask questions about any neighborhood happening.

My opinion is that when used appropriately, Nextdoor is a fabulous neighborhood resource. Here's just one example. I work in a preschool in northeast Portland, in

a classroom with kids aged two and a half to three and a half. As all parents know, preschoolers often have bathroom accidents and require a change of clothing. We ask our parents to supply their kids with at least one set of spare clothes. However, some of our families are chaotic and struggling financially and can't always provide their kids with the spare clothing they need. When their children have an accident, we have to scramble to find something for them to wear. The preschool does try to keep a stock of spare clothes, but if they are used, they often end up not being returned to the school.

Earlier this year, one of my preschoolers had an accident, and would have been forced to spend part of the day in a diaper. It struck me that this would have been incredibly damaging to his dignity, and that of his older sibling. So I decided to make an appeal on Nextdoor for some spare clothes.

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The response was overwhelming and instantaneous! By the weekend of my appeal, I had received a very generous donation of boys' and girls' clothing from some lovely local families. I didn't even have to go pick the donations up, as they were delivered right to my front door!

I've spoken with friends in the neighborhood, and there are lots of similar stories about the generosity and help that can be found through Nextdoor. It really seems to help build a better community feel and neighborhood connectivity. One feature I like about Nextdoor is that you can customize your posts so that they can go beyond the boundaries of Grant Park and into surrounding communities. I'm a member of Grant Park Church, and when we have had fundraisers and donation drives, we have been much more successful by communicating with the surrounding neighborhoods as well as our own.

So, what's not so great about Nextdoor? One thing I don't appreciate is the stream of reports on "suspicious characters" lurking around the neighborhood. If a crime tip is accompanied by useful, concrete information that could potentially help neighbors identify and avert an incident or theft, that's one thing. But if the information is so vague as to offer nothing else but to make neighbors feel less safe in their homes, that's not good. Another not-so-great feature is people who use Nextdoor to air their political views and trash those who disagree with them. I also don't appreciate folks who drop in on on-line conversations with sarcastic and snarky comments.

If you would like to offer your opinion on Nextdoor, we'd love to hear from you. If we get enough of a response, maybe we could do a follow-up article in an upcoming issue. E-mail me at general@grantpark-na.org.

Another Successful Cleanup

by *Kate Davenport*

The weather was perfect on Saturday, May 19, for the 13th annual Grant Park Neighborhood Cleanup. Once again the event was planned and staffed by a group of dedicated volunteers and took place in the parking lot of Grant Park Church at NE Knott and 34th. This event is the GPNA's annual fundraiser, with all proceeds helping to fund local neighborhood projects and events. It is also an opportunity for Grant Park residents to clean out junk from their homes and garages, to recycle responsibly, and to share unwanted, usable items with their neighbors.

Thanks to everyone participating, it was a great success! In total 133 cars and 44 vans/trucks dropped off loads, plus some nearby neighbors who simply walked their materials over, a 30% increase over last year. People brought trash, scrap metal, reusable building materials, batteries, small appliances, items to share, and more.

Many people also walked away with that special "find" from the "freecycle" area, reducing the amount of material that actually went to the landfill. As a result, a sixth dumpster ordered based upon needs from last year could be canceled!

All told, the event took in 9.05 tons of trash, 1.2 tons of scrap metal, and 140 pounds of batteries. There were also a truckload of electronics accepted for recycling, and a significant amount of reusable building materials that were picked up by the ReBuilding Center. Some of the freecycled "treasures" included: children's toys,

tools, garden art, linens, kitchen tools, artwork, and furniture.

At the end of the event, volunteers reluctantly shuttled everything remaining in the freecycle area to dumpsters, but all usable clothing went to the Portland Rescue Mission, and one kind volunteer, Master Recycler Sue Wiff, loaded up her van with Goodwill appropriate items and dropped them off.

Specific thanks to those who helped make the event so successful: including Central Northeast Neighbors, especially office manager Ronda Johnson; Metro; the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability; Steven and Courtney Lueb (electronics waste handlers); The Rebuilding Center; Metro Central's Hazardous Waste Recycling (for arranging to take batteries); and LJ's Metal Hauling Service. Also to New Seasons Market, Starbucks, and QFC, which once again provided food and coffee to nourish and invigorate volunteers. Finally, special thanks to the working volunteers who did the heavy lifting. This event could not have happened without you: Michelle Groth, Sue Wiff, Karyn Taylor, Mike Kelly, Earnie Smith and his family (from the Grant Park Church), Glasper West, Pastor Jeremy Richards and other members of the Grant Park Church, Grant Park Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) members Doug Couch, Stephen Haber, and John D'Avolio; current and former GPNA board members Jane Comeault, MaryCal Hanson, and Kate Davenport, and all the people who were just there to drop off their own trash, but ended up helping someone else.

Beverly Cleary Fernwood Parents Demand Action by Portland Public Schools to Provide Seismic Safety

by Jane Comeault and Sarah Neidhardt

The Portland Public School (PPS) 2012 bond planned incremental seismic upgrades and a new roof for the Fernwood campus of Beverly Cleary. This work was to be completed over the summer of 2017. But PPS has now indefinitely postponed the seismic portion of this work due to budget overruns. In response, Beverly Cleary has formed a Safety Committee to in part advocate for full and timely completion of the seismic upgrades. According to PPS's own 2012 engineering assessment, Fernwood has the second highest seismic risk score in the entire district, and a "Poor" expected seismic performance rating.

Fernwood will get a new roof this summer, which will make the newer part of the building safer. But in order to make the much larger high-risk, unreinforced masonry portion of the building safer, all of the incremental work needs to be completed, including the building-level seismic work. The current PPS website still promises that "All Poor expected performance rating schools in operation during bond planning have or will receive incremental seismic improvements as part of the 2012 school construction bond." That is not the case. Fernwood, as well as several other schools slated for 2012 bond work, will be left in limbo with no dedicated funding from any source.

The PPS Office of School Modernization has said that any retrofit or incremental upgrades most likely will not occur until future bond funds can be secured. Although

the Safety Committee advocated for the school's 2012-bond incremental upgrades to be prioritized as part of the 2017 bond, that bond is already millions of dollars over budget on other projects.

The Safety Committee believes PPS should be accountable for making Oregon schools seismically safe. California is far ahead of us. In 1966, the California Attorney General issued an opinion stating that school boards were responsible for ensuring that old school buildings were examined, and if necessary corrections were not made to schools that were known to be unsafe, then individual school board members should be held personally liable. As a result, in 1967 the California Governor signed the Greene Act, which relieved individual school board members of personal liability only once the board established an intent to carry through to completion all the steps necessary for the replacement or repair of at-risk schools. The Safety Committee urges Oregon to follow California's lead, and for the community to communicate to the PPS School Board their responsibility of repairing known seismic hazards in our unsafe schools and creating a concrete timeline for implementation.

In the meantime, the Safety Committee works on non-structural mitigation in the form of onsite storage of emergency supplies and classroom/school-wide preparedness. The Committee hopes to coordinate with the Grant Park Neighborhood Association and the Grant Park Neighborhood Emergency Team in the future.

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Grant High Girls' Softball

by Ken Peterson and Patrick Schmidt

The Grant High School renovation continues to progress on schedule but, according to school district officials, the planned new softball field had to be removed from the project due to cost overruns elsewhere and additional unplanned costs associated with the field itself. The new field would have been located in Grant Park, just north of the school. News of this change emerged as part of the "updates" article in the last GPNA newsletter.

Community response to the announcement was swift, vigorous, and angry. More than 100 people attended a special meeting held at Beaumont Middle School on May 10, including the entire Grant High girls' softball team, which sported matching t-shirts emblazoned with

"Title IX" (the federal law requiring gender equalization of athletic resources) on the back. The meeting officially was for the Design Advisory Group (DAG), which helped shape the entire Grant renewal project over many months preceding its commencement. However, the DAG meeting never really happened due to the many speakers voicing displeasure about cancellation of the new softball facility. Among those speaking, members of the team spoke about both the excitement the promised new diamond had brought, and also about a perception of inequality of current resource allocation between their program and the boys' baseball team. No final resolution of the softball diamond issue occurred at this meeting and plans to further consider it are unknown at press time.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRANT HIGH SCHOOL CONSTITUTION TEAM!

Out of 52 teams that competed in the annual national "We the People" competition in Washington, D.C., Grant High School's 36-member team placed first! Portland High Schools have done well in this event, with Grant and Lincoln High having won nine national titles in the past. The competition tests competitors' knowledge of the U.S Constitution in a practical way during simulated Congressional Hearings concerning a particular topic or issue.



Classroom Law Project

Need to Recycle a Used Mattress?

by Ken Peterson

The GPNA annual cleanup just passed, and you may have missed an opportunity to dispose of or recycle used mattresses and/or box springs. If so, you may want to consider other available environmental and socially sensitive options.

The Mattress Recycling Council estimates that Americans dispose of roughly 15 to 20 million mattresses every year. The average mattress takes up 40 cubic feet, which means that one year's worth of discarded mattresses will occupy more than 132,000 square miles of landfill space. So, there are very good reasons to make an extra effort to repurpose your old bed. There are some local options, and some surprising refusals. It is a good idea to call ahead to make sure that there is space available for your donation or recycling:

- **Community Warehouse:** Provides home furnishings "at little or no cost" to individuals and families living in poverty. Households can donate old mattresses, so long as they are free of rips or stains. This charity is relatively close to Grant Park (3969 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, 503.235.8786). Drop off items there or arrange a pick-up for a \$30 fee.
- **The Salvation Army:** The Salvation Army accepts mattresses in good shape and free of tears, burns, and other types of damage. Pickup is not currently available in the Grant Park area, and many nearby donation locations are too small to accept mattresses. As a result, this may not be a viable option.

- **Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity, Society of St. Vincent de Paul:** Do not accept used mattresses or box springs in the Portland area.

What if the condition of a mattress precludes reuse? Torn, stained, mildewed, or otherwise unusable mattresses can be taken to Environmentally Conscious Recycling (ECR), 12409 NE San Rafael Street, Portland, OR 97294, 503.253.0867, which has a \$25 minimum fee for the first 200 pounds, or to Metro Transfer Station, 6161 NW 61st Ave, Portland, OR 97210, 503.234.3000, but the standard minimum garbage rate of \$28 for the first 380 pounds applies. Parklane Mattresses 503.826.5590 will pick-up and recycle your old mattress and box spring (not damp or infested) even if you don't buy new ones from them. However, without a purchase the cost is \$70 per piece, and with a purchase it is \$35. The pick-up site must be within 30 miles of Tualatin, which includes all of Grant Park.

Some of the information in this article came from Tuck Sleep Foundation, a community resource devoted to improving sleep hygiene, health and wellness through dissemination of comprehensive, unbiased, free web-based information. Tuck has been featured on NBC News, NPR, Lifehacker, and Radiolab and by many colleges/universities and sleep organizations across the web. For more information, including mattress ratings, go to Tuck.com. You may sleep better knowing that you have helped someone in need or recycled responsibly.

Ginger Cookies

On one of those inevitable Portland rainy summer days when idle kids need a diversion, here is an easy old family recipe for them to try that will produce cookies the whole family will love.

Ingredients

¾ cup shortening or butter (made with butter, the cookies will spread more and be softer)
 1 cup sugar
 4 tbs molasses
 ¼ tsp salt
 1 egg
 2 cups all purpose flour
 3 tsp baking soda
 1 tsp cinnamon
 1 tsp ginger
 ½ tsp cloves

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a cookie sheet. In a large bowl cream together the shortening or butter and sugar. Add the molasses, salt, and egg, and blend well. In a separate bowl sift or whisk together the dry ingredients. Blend into the creamed mixture. Shape the dough into small balls and roll in granulated sugar. Place on a greased cookie sheet. Bake for 10-12 minutes. Makes about 6 dozen.