



# Grant Park

## Neighborhood Association

### **Special Meeting**

Monday, March 8, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Zoom, 7:15 p.m.

**Board Members Present:** Neon Brooks, Jane Comeault, Jessica Decker, Mary Cal Hansen, Marion Horna, Vivek Kothari, Marisa Morby, Laurene Mullen, Ron Laster, Lois Okrasinski, Ken Peterson, Stacey Tipp

**Absent Board members:** none

**Guests:** David Pietka, neighbor on US Grant Place.

### **Agenda**

#### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:18 pm.

#### **2. Officer Roll Call**

Quorum was achieved with a majority of Board members present.

#### **3. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved.

#### **4. Grant Park Upper Field Project Committee**

- Typically a committee is created to go deeper into local issues, then make recommendations to the Board. Committee would be autonomous, decide who chairs, when to meet, provide representation.
- David's email from March 1, 2021 summarized the chronology of events at the upper field (see attachment 1).
- Ken added that Parks encouraged the residents on US Grant to reach out to the neighborhood association because they wanted to liaise with just one group, rather than individual neighbors, as a point of contact. Ken had suggested to PPS and Parks that a forum open to all stakeholders (neighbors, Grant High school, field users from elsewhere) would be an effective way to get input from the larger community, but this hasn't happened.
- Dave - PPS and Parks are not replying to communication from the residents of US Grant advocacy group.

- Ken - PPS wanted GPNA to act as a sort of filter to pass on to them what GPNA felt were reasonable concerns expressed by US Grant neighbors. He wasn't comfortable doing this as a board, because it would require a meeting to approve or disapprove of those concerns each time new ones were submitted. However, a standing semi-autonomous committee comprised of GPNA board members and others could be effective in understanding the issue from a variety of stakeholders, including Grant Park residents (immediate and beyond), park users, athletics groups, GHS students and more.
- Dave - neither Parks nor PPS has followed up on a recommendation by the City to complete application by talking to community. They have until May 12, 2021 to complete the application.
- Ron suggested that a committee be formed, draft a letter that goes to a wide group including Commissioner Carmen Rubio, and Bureau Directors (Parks and PPS), reciting history thus far and absence of concrete responses from either Parks or PPS.
- Vivek volunteered to be the board member point of contact on the committee. Dave has four citizens who would be willing to serve on this committee. Ken will be available as long as he is in the neighborhood and Ron will be a resource as well.
- The last time GPNA dealt with Parks and PPS was the Grant Bowl, an observation was that the further people lived from the field, the more liberal they were about the issues they had with any development at the field. The closer they lived to it, the more concise and specific concerns that they had.
- Outreach ideas for the committee: [Nextdoor.com](http://Nextdoor.com), publish a one page leaflet, Grant High needs to be contacted, school newsletter or possibly put something on reader board because many people who care about this issue are high school parents, GHS Athletic Director, ask Parks to supply a list of teams or others that use the facilities.
- Question of how to define community - possibly the catchment of Grant High? Teams that currently play at Grant Park?
- Dave - the requests made by the immediate neighbors benefit the entire neighborhood. Seven of twelve are safety related.

## **5. Review of Board Positions Needed**

The following Board positions are, or will be vacant as of April 2021: President, Vice President, Secretary, Newsletter, Land Use, Web, Newsletter Ad Liaison, second CNN representative. This is routinely addressed at the April meeting, but since there are so many positions it was worth addressing in advance.

Newsletter Editor - Stacey volunteered.

Secretary - Mary Cal volunteered.

Webmaster - Marissa volunteered.

Land Use - David is interested in becoming a Member-at-Large and also covering Land Use.

Neon is interested in co-charing.

Newsletter Ad Liaison - no volunteers, Ron will continue to do this work.

CNN representative - Ron is willing to continue, but would be helpful to have another GPNA representative. Lois is willing to be a permanent alternate, she doesn't have stamina to be the regular person.

Treasurer - no one came forward at this point.

Vice President - no one came forward at this point

President - no one came forward at this point.

Jessica suggested we try to recruit more people for the Board; this is something GPNA has struggled with for several years. Any ideas welcome! People are encouraged to join as members at large to start, before taking on an officer position.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

## **Attachments**

1. Dave Pietra (Neighbor) email

On Mar 1, 2021, at 3:45 PM, dave pietka <[dpietka@msn.com](mailto:dpietka@msn.com)> wrote:

Planning started in 2019 to get lights in bowl and get softball to campus

In the studies, multiple use conflicts were identified suggesting use of bowl by softball even with lights was not feasible (some activities would be squeezed out)

September of 2019 discussion shifted to lights in the upper field stating that it would accommodate "Softball games"

We were ok with this but we wanted mitigation and we wanted to know the hours of use.

Multiple request for probable hours of use were made, PPS did not respond.

In February 2020 school board approved \$1,500,000 for upper field softball field improvements with lights

( PPS did this even though they were told that softball started in late February, daylight saving time started March 15 with sunset at 7:15, by 3/31 sunset is 7:38, April 17 it is 8 PM, May 1<sup>st</sup> it is 8:15 and May 15 it is 8:35—the need for lights was not clear, minor schedule adjustments between baseball and softball could have avoid the need for lights)

In August a Design Advisory Group met and it was suggested that the lights would not only serve softball games, but practices for all sports during the school year.

In a second or third meeting the Parks department expressed interest in using the lights. When hours of use was again requested by the neighbors, the request was ignored.

In September or October the Type 3 application was submitted to the city which asked for school use and USE OF LIGHTS BY PARKS DEPARTMENT 365 DAYS PER YEAR UNTIL 10 PM, no mitigation efforts were proposed.

On about 12/15/20 the city ruled the application was not complete and suggested PPS talk to neighbors. PPS has 180 days from that time to address the deficiencies in the application.

In January PPS asked people to not provide comments individually, and requested that Grant Park Neighborhood Association take the lead to represent the neighborhood and nearby residences. I trust that Ken and Ron will keep us all posted of PPS activity as things develop.

To my knowledge there has been no additional activity.

Sorry for my continued rehash of the situation, but I want it to be clear that the process getting to lights until 10 PM 365 days per year was not straightforward. I hope this message gets to Hearings Officer when the time comes.

## 2. Ken Peterson email to Board

**From:** School Modernization <[schoolmodernization@pps.net](mailto:schoolmodernization@pps.net)>  
**Subject:** Grant Upper Field Communications  
**Date:** February 22, 2021 at 3:31:21 PM PST  
**To:** Kenneth Peterson <[kbpdx@gmail.com](mailto:kbpdx@gmail.com)>

Mr. Peterson,

I wanted to follow up about the communication between PPS & GPNA concerning the Upper Fields Project.

Our hope in reaching out to you and the GPNA was to request that neighbors who are already actively represented by the GPNA share their questions and concerns through the GPNA instead of emailing or calling PPS and Parks separately. By having GPNA collect these questions from its neighbors, it will allow us to answer them more quickly and efficiently, and will avoid multiple, overlapping lines of dialogue that can lead to confusion and misunderstanding.

Since the goal of the GPNA is to effectively represent the collective, diverse voices of the Grant Park neighborhood we proposed this communications channel. This method will also allow GPNA to understand and amplify to PPS and Parks those questions or concerns that are shared by multiple neighbors. This approach is consistent with how the City seeks to have neighbors testify as a group during the upcoming land-use process.

As you may know, we've conducted extensive public engagement for this project with multiple opportunities for public comment. Community engagement to date includes three Design Advisory Group meetings and two community workshops during the master planning phase. Once we entered the design phase of the upper field, we held an additional two Design Advisory Group meetings and a virtual town hall. Additionally, PPS attended one GPNA meeting in person and participated in another virtually.

You recently proposed a zoom meeting but we feel that before we consider that option we should address the neighborhood's concerns through a productive dialogue via email between PPS and GPNA per Mark Moffet's advice.

Here is a brief update on the things we are working on now that you can share with your members:

- As requested we are providing supplemental lighting information, including full height details for the poles, Kelvin temperatures and Dark Sky requirements.
- We completed a design of the Voice Amplification system which meets the requirement as stated by Title 18, City of Portland Noise ordinance.
- We are very close to having a field use schedule populated by Portland Public School, Portland Interscholastic League and Portland Parks and Recreation.
- We have been working with PBOT and have completed an updated Traffic Memo addressing the concerns and questions expressed through the Land Use process.

- Field netting has been removed from this Land Use application and will be pursued as a separate process.

Many of the concerns that some neighbors have raised are related to facility usage. Since this is a co-owned space, Parks and PPS negotiate the use of the field on an annual basis and are currently working diligently to be able to share our best assessment for field use as part of the Land Use Review. We are certainly taking the concerns that neighbors sent to PPS seriously but please keep in mind that our usage proposal is based on making sure the use of the facilities is consistent and equitable compared with similar fields throughout the city.

We think that GPNA will be a good partner in helping ensure that neighborhood voices are heard while meeting the goals of equity and inclusion for the greater community.

Best,

David Mayne  
Communications Manager PPS Bond Program  
[schoolmodernization@pps.net](mailto:schoolmodernization@pps.net)