



# Grant Park

## Neighborhood Association

GPNA Annual meeting Tuesday April 12, 2022, via ZOOM. (APPROVED)

Ron Laster called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and requested all attendants introduce themselves including position or interest in the GPNA.

In attendance tonight were Ron Laster, President, Mary Cal Hanson, secretary, Stacey Tipp, communications and newsletter coordinator, Neon Brooks, Land Use Chair, Jessica Decker, Treasurer, Lois Okrasinski, member at large, Laurene Mullen, member at large, Marion Horna, member at large, Linda Burch member at large. In addition, Pete Maxfield was in attendance representing the Grant Park NET team.

At tonight's meeting there were several new neighbors in attendance also. These included Linda Beberes, Tom Fawell, Kara Caselas, Sam Friedenber, Mary Artz, Bradley Noonan, Gary Stamps and Sean Gillen. Joining the meeting a bit later were guests Janwyn Toy- Blazer and Jane Comeault. These two attendees were here to present the group with an overview of their GPNA grant project of new and improved garden space at the Fernwood/Beverly Cleary grade school.

First item mentioned was from Lois, who explained that she will be stepping down as an at large member with hopes of returning in the future. She will be missed on the board.

The first order of business was the approval of the agenda as presented. This motion was made by Lois and seconded by Marion. By review of hands raised on Zoom all voting members agreed with the meeting agenda and there were no abstentions or oppositions. The agenda will be entered as presented.

Next up, the review and approval of the January 18, 2022, meeting minutes. A motion was made by Neon, seconded by Laurene with a unanimous approval of the January meeting minutes.

Via Zoom a copy of the Treasurer report was presented. There were two small adjustments that included the spelling of Hanson not Hansen and the total Zoom charge is \$149.90. Motion to approve the treasurer report was made by Linda and seconded by Lois with unanimous approval and no oppositions or abstentions.

A report from the CNN (Central NE neighborhood coalition) with a quick overview as to their significance to the GPNA was given by Ron. Lois stated that she thoroughly enjoyed attending these monthly meetings which may soon switch from Zoom format to in person. Lois presented a wonderful quick overview of the Rose City Bluff restoration project. In addition, Ron mentioned the recent lawsuit that was brought against another neighborhood association regarding the need to be transparent and keep records of all meeting and pertinent emails and phone calls. Lois signed off with a great quote from Jane Goodall: "What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

Sam inquired for more info regarding the lawsuit. Ron filled the group in quickly and recommended watching a video that he had posted (?). The lawsuit boiled down to a neighborhood association that did not follow its bylaws and fiduciary responsibilities.

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Neon was here to present updates on Land Use issues within the Grant Park neighborhood of which there were several. The Grant Park High School softball field is still in process and the tentative updated completion date is now June 8, 2022. News from the Aircraft Factory building is that a permit for remodeling has been issued but then a nuisance complaint was filed. The owner told Neon they are working on scheduling a subcontractor, with an initial focus on limiting access to the building.

The food cart at NE 35<sup>th</sup> has had a slightly delay but should resume going forward. The second food cart on the former Burger King space has had their permit issued in mid-March, which should be approved soon and then the set up should move quickly.

The traffic improvements at Ne 33<sup>rd</sup> and NE Hancock have almost been completed. There is work that CVS needs to complete which is set to be starting soon (April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022). CVS has not placed the new signals up yet.

At the NE 36<sup>th</sup> and Hancock intersection the upgrades to make it a bike and pedestrian Greenway are in process. After Neon contacted Scott Cohen from the City of Portland there were new "No Parking" signs placed close to the intersection to improve access and visibility.

Sam Fawell chimed in with his frustrations regarding traffic improvement on NE 33<sup>rd</sup> new the Fernwood/Beverly Clearly school. And Linda Burch chimed into the dangers and frustrations with limited traffic control all along NE 33<sup>rd</sup> in the neighborhood. The idea that maybe a joint Neighborhood Association meeting with Sullivans Gulch could be coordinated to try and get more push for the city to make more safety improvements along NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Neon mentioned that Sullivans Gulch Neighborhood Association (SGNA) has created a transportation plan. Unfortunately, the city of Portland does not have to utilize this info for future projects or traffic improvements.

Board elections are next on the agenda and Ron put forth the officer's slate in which current GPNA board members as a group agreed to keep their current positions with one addition which is Neon Brooks will also? Assume the position of Vice President. At this time Ron announced that there can be additions to the board from any neighbor who is in attendance this evening. Several neighbors have offered to be at large members. These new at large board members include Tom Fawell, Kara Calelas, Mary Artz and Brad Noonan. Ron made a motion to approve the slate of officers as Ron Laster, president, Neon Brooks, vice president, Mary Cal Hanson, secretary, Stacey Tipp, communication officer and Jessica Decker as Treasurer. Linda offering the first approval and Marion seconding the officer slate. All members agreed with no abstentions or oppositions. Ron asked if there was a motion to approve the new at large board members. This motion was made by Mary Cal and seconded by Linda. Welcome new board members.

GPNA Board member responsibility document approval was next on the agenda. This has been and will continue to be a working document to share and update all board members of the specific job descriptions for each of the officer's position. Ron asked if there was a motion to be moved on to approve the current version of the Board responsibility document. Jessica made the motion and Linda seconded the motion. Next Ron asked if there was a motion to be made. A motion was to approve the current updated version of our NA by-laws. Laurene agreed to initiate the motion and Lois made the second. Both motions were approved unanimously with no abstentions or oppositions.

Kara Calelas, as a new board member at large asked about some of the basic board requirements. Ron piped in that the primary function is to try and attend the meetings as this can assure that the board has a quorum of voting

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members. There are four meetings a year with the April meeting being the Annual board elections as the primary activity. In addition, there may be emergency meetings that may be called and held with time sensitive issues. Ron then mentioned the format of Roberts Rules as a platform for how meetings are setup and issues discussed. He then encouraged the new members to attend a few meetings, read the board responsibility documents and then join an area that they have an interest and/or strength. Stacey piped in that as the communication officer she is always on the search for new and interesting articles for the newsletter. Ron mentioned the previous very successful neighborhood Clean Ups and Emergency preparedness activities.

New Business issues were next up. And at this time both Janwyn Toy-Blazer and Jane Comeault were here to share with the board and neighbors their plan for the grant money that they applied for and that the GPNA approved for improvements to the Fernwood/Beverly Clearly Garden (FBCG) on the school's campus. Janwyn gave a thorough overview of the history of the garden in addition added many new components that this group has undertaken to improve the garden for the students and the neighborhood. Upgrades include new beds, a new shed and a learning area for garden instruction in concert with "Grown Portland". Stacey wanted to share with this group that there is also grant money from CNN, up to \$3000.00.

Additional new business is that Stacey would like all articles to be submitted to her by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, for the next newsletter. And thought that an article about the FBCG would make an excellent article and maybe some photos for the next newsletter. Janwyn agreed to that request.

Ron asked if there was a motion to move on to approve the grant money of \$500.00 for the FBCG project. By a show of hands this request was unanimously approved.

Peter Maxfield from the Grant Park NET group. This is our local neighborhood emergency preparedness group. Their training activities have been somewhat different in scope secondary to the Covid pandemic, but the group is still doing some virtual exercises. He will give a more in-depth report for the newsletter. It was also mentioned that they will be trying to resume more in person training practices soon. Linda Beberes is also on the NET team.

Next terms meeting dates which will all start at 7 pm were agreed upon as June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023. All the board members agreed to these dates. In addition, Ron would like to schedule a new board member orientation in May. The date agreed upon for this special board meeting will be May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, starting at 7 pm for about 1-1.5 hours. This meeting will be limited in scope and primarily be housekeeping info exchange, organizational plans and possible discussion of a "parliamentarian" position. This would assist in maintaining Roberts rules standards.

Ron asked if there could be a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:24 pm. Mary Cal made the motion to adjourn the meeting and that motion was seconded by Linda.