

GPNA Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes – March 12,2024
Submitted by Ramona Perrault

Attending: Neon Brooks, Jill DeRosa, Molly Hamill (NET), Tom Fawell, Ramona Perrault, Stacey Tipp, Bikram Vaidya, Jake Wicks
Absent: Kara Caselas, Mary Artz, Linda Burch, Remington Evert, Laurene Mullen
Guests: Virginia LaForte, Miro Wesener
Call to Order: Stacey Tipp called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm

Approval of Agenda:

- Deferring Treasurer’s Report since Treasurer is out
- Ramona moved to approve the agenda and Tom Fawell seconded; unanimously approved

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes/Reading of E-Mail Votes between Board Meetings

- Stacey read into the record the vote done via email to change some wording on the website
- Neon moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, Molly seconded – unanimous approval, Stacey Tipp abstained.

Land Use and Transportation Committee Report:

- Neon: Received notice about new development at old Burger King lot on NE Broadway – an animal hospital
- Neon: Traffic safety on US Grant Place – neighbor wrote a letter to the city, referenced an incident with kids being harmed – city went out and did new speed testing – results not supportive of adding speed bumps; Neon would like to consider cutting down shrubs at traffic circles to improve visibility
- Neon: Cell tower – held a Land Use Committee meeting on February 29 – no consensus reached on actions for the Board to take
- Neon: Lease for Bowl went through and public access is secured for the Bowl and the upper field; advocates are now pushing for lighting the Bowl – PPS first needs to find funding – then BPS would identify neighborhood impacts – PPS would have to show they have a plan to mitigate impacts; that would include hours of use, trash receptacles, etc – there is a process for us to get into the nitty gritty of getting the lights approved – lighting the Bowl would allow for a second set of practices at the Bowl – would allow sports to play in the Bowl –
- Miro: her daughter has to travel to Delta to practice and sometimes play games; kids losing instructional time; some kids can drive themselves, but others don’t drive – requires parents to drive

- Virginia: Lacrosse women are practicing at Delta (\$4K) and boys are practicing at Buckman, which is free; because these are rec teams, they must fundraise for this and it isn't equitable
- Jill: who would determine when lights are on? Neon – that would be determined in the agreement between city and PPS
- Neon: engagement on this issue to date includes involvement during lease agreement issue; newsletter articles; land use committee meetings; hasn't heard anybody say they're against lights at the Bowl; there are some who are concerned about mitigating – trash, hours of use, traffic safety and car and bus parking
- Neon read the statement that had been circulated prior to the meeting and was provided in hard copy for the meeting
- Ramona: Not having a proper field has effected tens of thousands of students over the year; it's inequitable for the boys and girls teams to have different access and it's serious equity issue when students must have a car or a parent who can drive them to far-away fields – in support of the letter as written
- Jake: Not in support of the statement, primarily because the of the use of the word "urgent"; it's important does not believe it's urgent; the school didn't act in good faith in the remodel; it's a safety issue; it's not the norm for students to have access to fields; for him safety is priority; the PBOT traffic study doesn't make any sense; that data can't be valid; believes emails received from neighbors today
- Neon: feels the statement does an adequate job addressing those mitigation concerns; GPNA is a steward of the park that is very important to so many people; we can change our position and oppose if the mitigation is not adequate
- Virginia – would like to request that the Board not co-mingle the concerns about PBOT's management of US Grant Place and the needs of the students at Grant
- Neon – this is an opportunity for Grant to be a partner in pushing the city for safety improvements
- Tom: feels comfortable supporting the statement since there will a process for mitigation and we should be clear about that with the community
- Jake: why do we need the word urgent twice?
- Ramona moved to approve the statement as written, seconded by Jill – Jake opposed, all others voted yes

Election of Slate of Officers:

- Stacey explained the slate – only change is Molly moving into the president position – Stacey will remain on the board and continue to edit the newsletter
- Miro nominated herself as an at-large member of the GPNA Board – we added her to the slate
- Ramona moved, Tom seconded – unanimous

Livability Committee:

- Ramona gave a report on Problem Solvers meetings; shared news of meeting with the NE Broadway Business group; would like to organize another neighborhood spruce up – needs help

- Miro: Leadership group at Grant might be willing to do a community service project for a clean-up
- Ramona: Honor Society kids need volunteer hours too
- Stacey: this reminds me that we have a spot for a student on our Board and it's empty – could we get a student from Grant?
- Miro: that seem pretty easy to do
- Tom: Gordon's – asked about new graffiti rule
- Stacey: really encourages the spruce up happening before the end of June

Neighborhood Emergency Team:

- Molly: NET team has borrowed a disaster game that is prep for emergency response – all the surrounding neighborhoods have been invited to join our NET to work on solving an “emergency”; Molly is working on customizing it for our neighborhood
- In April there is a city-wide disaster drill – search and rescue and triage; the NET team will work as a group – it's been many years since a training
- Three new members, including a radio operator – people seem to be coming back out to volunteer
- Miro: can anyone from the neighborhood join NET?
- Molly: yes! Anyone can email her
- Stacey: you mentioned inviting a police officer to a meeting
- Molly: yes! Police will attend meetings with crime statistics and tips for safety, etc
- Tom made a motion and Jill seconded to invite a police officer to our next meeting – unanimous

Board Conversations:

- Stacey explained the coalition system
- With the government reorganization on July 1, we are going to be in a jumbo coalition that covers District 2 – NE Coalition of Neighborhoods – we have 2 reps on CNN Board but will only have 1 rep on the new coalition
- Tons of unknowns about the transition – Stacey and Molly have been attending lots of meetings
- Concerned about insurance lapse – can't have meetings without it
- Get about \$3000 from CNN currently – however, it's our understanding that there will be no automatic funding based on need – might be very bad for our neighborhood association
- Might not be able to even do newsletters
- Fundraising Committee met – CNN gave us \$333.33 for our ice cream social; the fundraising committee recommends that we hold onto or repurpose the use of these funds because of our precarious financial situation under the transition - Bikram moved approval, Tom seconded – unanimous
- The fundraising committee would like to increase advertising fees by 20% starting with our Summer 2024 newsletter. Jill moved, Bikram second – unanimous approval
- Stacey thinks sponsorships are the way to go; showed us how Rose City has sponsorship listed on their newsletter

- Miro: maybe Waste Management would be a sponsor – they just bought out Elmers and neighbors are sad about the change
- Between now and July when the transition happens, the city wants the neighborhoods to have a champion to attend meetings
- Stacey moves to have Molly be the champion, Neon seconds – unanimous
- April 2 is the first Meeting of Champions
- Stacey moved to form a Transition Committee, Ramona second - unanimous
- We'll need an NECN rep – and that person should join the Transition Committee
- Molly – champion position will be an opportunity to meet our neighboring communities and strengthen those relationships

Last minute comment

- Neon had lunch with the Sullivan's Gulch Neighborhood Association Land Use Chair – SG is very interested in improvements on Broadway – more walkable and safer
- Repaving coming up – opportunity to make improvements – might be able to participate in improvement or ideas

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm Bikram moved, Neon second – unanimous

GPNA statement on lighting at the bowl – approved by the Board

Grant Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) recognizes the urgent importance of lighting at the Grant Bowl for Grant High School student athletes, sports fans, and their families. Lighting would allow students to miss far fewer instructional hours due to practices and games, and being able to hold games in the bowl would bring the community together.

Lighting at the bowl could also have broad benefits for the surrounding community, providing a safe place for neighbors to recreate and exercise after dark.

As lighting will support evening practices and allow some home games to be played at the bowl, steps will need to be taken to ensure the bowl and park remain clean and negative impacts on surrounding neighbors are mitigated. Mitigation should include reasonable hours of use, sufficient garbage facilities, clear school bus parking rules, and sustained partnership between GPNA, Grant High School, PPS, and PBOT to improve pedestrian safety on US Grant Place and other neighboring streets.

Taking into account the above, GPNA strongly and urgently supports installation of lighting for the Grant Bowl, and looks forward to working with all stakeholders to ensure mitigation of negative impacts on the surrounding neighborhood.