



# Grant Park

## Neighborhood Association

**GPNA General meeting November 9, 2021, via ZOOM started at 7:03 pm (APPROVED)**

Ron Laster called the meeting to order and then proceeded to have the board members introduce themselves and state their current board positions.

In attendance tonight were Ron Laster President, Stacey Tipp newsletter editor/communications chair, Neon Brooks Land Use chair and Mary Cal Hanson secretary. Board members at large attending tonight include: Laurene Mullen, Lois Okrasinski, Linda Burch and Marion Horna. Vivek Kothari member at large and Jessica Decker treasurer were absent for this meeting.

Guests include Jacob Brostoff, a Community Safety coordinator with the Community Safety Program of the Office of Community Civic Life for the City of Portland. Mark Seder, a GPNA neighbor and Naomi McClure, GPNA neighbor. Trang Sharbaugh who is trying to get neighborhood info to coordinate a local farmer to neighbor market set up.

Motion to approve the agenda put forth by Lois and seconded by Marion. All members of the board approved.

Motion to approve the October 12, 2021, meeting minutes initiated by Ron and seconded by Linda. All members in favor.

Ron next put up a motion request for the GPNA board to adopt the Board Responsibility packet that all board members have a copy of as presented. Marion made the motion to approve the responsibility packet and Laurene seconded this motion. All board members approved.

Mary Cal will send a copy of each item approved above to Ronda Johnson at the Central NE Neighbors office.

Mr. Brostoff was up next to talk about neighborhood safety and safety issues. Jacob gave an overview of some of the issues regarding slow to no police responses to crimes in Portland. The previous city commissioner rearranged or completely gutted several police patrol groups. Jacob went on to explain that the technology that is available to the police is outdated and there aren't enough employees to keep up with the data input, so the department is years behind with regards to data entry. This makes it very difficult to obtain useful information on crime and crime statistics. Although you can find shooting data and 911 calls. Petty crimes and, stolen vehicles and some property crimes are also unavailable or difficult to locate on the police website. One reason is that Portland is unable to hire, train and retain officers. Portland has about 1000 officers while the city of Austin, Texas has approximately 1,900. These two cities are roughly the same size. Commissioner Hardesty is trying to focus on the recruitment, training and retaining of police officers for Portland. (\*)

Jacob wanted everyone to know that the city commissioners are easy to contact as there are 4 commissioners and a mayor. At every city council meeting 5 community members can speak for 3 minutes, or a group can speak for 15 minutes to the whole council.

There is also a neighborhood Advocacy training option for anyone in the city. This program will teach you how to say what you want to say to get the info to the commissioners.

Finally, Jacob mentioned that the city of Portland does have a street, neighborhood or business lighting review program. This is to try and control some of the increased crime in the city. There is a link on the PBOT website for a lighting request page. Staff come to the property to complete an assessment and make recommendations to improve

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lighting. This review is free of charge to citizens, business and property owners. Unfortunately, crime prevention and public safety are not figured into the final assessment.

New Business: Stacey made the pitch to get any articles to her by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. This will be to time the newsletter delivery before the December holidays.

-There currently are no clear dates for future meetings at this time. January and April are the usual months for GPNA meetings. Stacey made a request to have the board members discuss dates via email instead of staying on the ZOOM call.

Ron made a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting. Marion agreed and Linda seconded this motion. Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm

(\*) info gleaned from Portland Police and Austin Police websites for accuracy's sake.