



P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Holiday 2015

Traffic and Parking Issues Defy Easy Solutions

by Ken Peterson

Perceptions of increased speeding, threats to pedestrian and bicyclist safety, worsening traffic, and commercial encroachment on neighborhood parking fueled an intense GPNA meeting on November 10, 2015. GPNA arranged for officials from Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) to attend, as well as representatives from New Seasons and Capstone Partners, the developer of Grant Park Village. Grant Park residential attendees numbered about 30, many of whom had previously attempted to actively engage with PBOT concerning the issues raised.

Carl Snyder, PBOT head of Traffic Operations, and Steve Townsen, City Engineer regarding City Structural or Civil Engineering Projects in the Right of Way, responded to audience questions and concerns primarily affecting issues on Knott Street, NE 33rd near Grant Park, and on NE Caesar Chavez.

Unfortunately, PBOT offered little in the way of effective solutions to the issues raised. Inexpensive ideas proposed by residents to slow traffic, such as sequential stop signs on Knott Street, were deemed ineffective and potentially harmful. According to PBOT, pedestrians and cyclists can falsely perceive enhanced safety from added stop signs, and more effective solutions, such as speed bumps, are too expensive for the location. Some attendees reacted strongly to these responses, contending they make no logical sense and that PBOT does not effectively prioritize or use resources efficiently.

GPNA had expended considerable effort to address the crossing at NE Thompson and NE 33rd following reports of near misses and of school children being hit by cars at that intersection. After repeated requests over many months for a traffic study and assistance from Portland's Safe Routes to School program, PBOT conducted a 20-minute early afternoon mid-week day study that resulted in a conclusion of no pedestrian crossings whatsoever. Snyder admitted that the study was flawed, and that pedestrian traffic clearly exceeds city standards for installation of a rapid flash beacon crossing at this location. However, he cited a lack of funds to install one, since the city currently focuses its limited resources on multi-lane streets for such installations.

Similarly, no solutions appeared available for residents of Caesar Chavez who complained of increased traffic and speeding, making it unsafe for them to enter and exit their driveways.

Turning to parking, neighbors on Schuyler and Hancock Streets complained

Continued on page 3

www.grantpark-na.org

STAY IN TOUCH

Find us at Facebook:

[GrantParkNeighborhood](https://www.facebook.com/GrantParkNeighborhood);

Tweet us at [@GPNAPortland](https://twitter.com/GPNAPortland)

Join our discussion group at: groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/gpna-forum

GPNA MEETINGS

Future board meetings will be quarterly on the second Tuesday of the month. General meetings will be held twice a year, in April and October. Special meetings, when needed, may be scheduled at any time.

Grant Park Neighborhood Association is open to ALL persons living or working within its boundaries. If something prevents you from participating, please contact a Board member and we'll make accommodations.

NEXT MEETING & AGENDA

Board - January 12, 2016

Board - March 8, 2016

Annual - April 12, 2016 (Elections!)

Board - June 14, 2016

Meeting dates may change.

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

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Contact the board at:
GrantPark@necoalition.org

Grant Park Dog Park Update

By Ken Peterson

Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation (Parks) held a meeting at Grant Park Baptist Church on October 1, 2015, to provide an opportunity for public input concerning plans to improve the Dog Off-Leash areas (DOLA) at Grant Park.

More than 50 people attended, representing Alameda, Grant Park, Hollywood, Irvington, and Sullivan's Gulch neighborhoods, as well as Hollywood/Portland Youth Soccer, and nearby schools, demonstrating that the issue extends well beyond the boundaries of GPNA's defined neighborhood.

Mike Grosso, Northeast Services Parks Maintenance Supervisor, chaired the meeting, assisted by Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong and Stefanus Gunawan, Parks Community Relations officials. Ken Peterson, GPNA Vice-President and Land Use Chair helped field audience questions at the podium with Grosso.

Parks had identified three possible locations for a permanent, fenced, DOLA and asked attendees to focus on likes and dislikes of each one. They are:

1. Option A – Existing Fall aka Alternate Area (between NE 35th Ave & NE 35th Pl, north of path)– add fencing and adjust hours/seasons to reduce early/late noise for residences.

2. Option B – Existing Spring/Summer/Winter Area (north of soccer field)-add fencing (either full or partial), adjust boundaries to create adequate setbacks around soccer and basketball courts, and adjust hours/seasons.

3. Option C – Create new off-leash area with fencing at NE corner between Hollywood play shelter and NE 36th Avenue, roughly bound on the north by the Hollywood playground fence, on the east by the west side of NE 36th Avenue, on the south by the asphalt pathway that borders the north side of the soccer field, and on the west by the park shelter area.

Audience members expressed strong opinions, ranging from opposition to any changes, to varying degrees of support for each of the three alternatives proposed by Parks.

Many attendees appeared dismayed at being asked to focus primarily on the locations specified by Parks, and sought to expand the discussion to include other alternatives. Others proposed solutions such as partial (as opposed to enclosed) fencing, clearer signage, and better self-policing by DOLA users and Parks Rangers to reduce noise and territory conflicts. Some expressed concern about aesthetic impact to the park, and worried whether fencing would adversely change the composition of DOLA users and dogs.

Parks asked meeting attendees to complete surveys that were also available online and publicized by GPNA through its website and on Nextdoor and Facebook. At press time for this story, final survey results were not available, although approximately 230 responses had been recorded. The survey is now closed.

Parks had conveyed no final decisions at press time. Funding for any improvements made continues to be an issue, with public participation expected. At a recent Board meeting, GPNA pledged \$500 toward a fenced DOLA, and will continue to work with Parks to achieve the best solution possible. Even as demands for DOLA improvements increase, reaching a clear consensus about how best to do so remains elusive.



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Hollywood-Grant Park Sewer Construction Update

Environmental Services has designed a project in the Hollywood, Grant Park and Rose City Park neighborhoods to repair the public sewer system and to reduce stormwater flow into the system.

Over the next 18 months, Environmental Services will repair or replace 38,000 feet (about 7 miles) of public sewer pipes that are between 75 and 110 years old and in poor condition. The project includes replacing manholes, storm drains sewer service branches that connect homes and businesses to the public sewer in the street to the curb. The project will install twelve green street planters and six sumps to remove about 1.3 million gallons of storm water from the sewer system annually.

As part of this project, Environmental Services also worked with six homeowners on NE 46th and NE 49th avenues to construct rain gardens on their properties to help further manage storm water.

Together these improvements will increase public sewer capacity, reduce the amount of sewage flowing into the Sullivan Gulch Trunk Sewer, protect public health, property and the environment, and reduce the risks of street flooding and sewage releases to homes, businesses and streets.

Environmental Services is also working with Friends of Trees to plant street trees in the project area. Trees absorb rain to reduce storm water runoff, cool the air, provide habitat and beautify neighborhoods. *(related article on page 8)*

A project map and current updates are available at www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/HGP.

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Continued from page 1 - **Traffic and Parking Issues**

of increased congestion and driveway encroachment following completion of Grant Park Village and the addition of the New Seasons store. Jon Rich, manager of the Grant Park New Seasons offered to work with neighbors to ameliorate the situation, suggesting that curb painting, employee education, employee car pooling, and other incentives to reduce neighborhood parking could be options. PBOT officials also provided information concerning possible creation of a Local Parking District.

Portland is in the process of reevaluating future parking options citywide, and following the meeting, GPNA also provided information concerning meetings currently being held on those issues.

An improving economy and increased demand for urban housing may have contributed to many of the issues raised at the meeting. Fluidity of those phenomena creates daunting and challenging impediments to devising effective and readily available solutions. GPNA will continue to work with all parties to improve the situation, but also encourages independent creative group involvement and organization by those most directly affected.

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February 5, 2016 · 6:30-9 p.m.
 Grant High School's "Old Gym"
 2245 NE 36th Ave

Let the suave sounds of Grant High School's award-winning music ensembles transport you to a magical evening under the stars in Paris as you sample mouth-watering hors d'oeuvres, enjoy a variety of desserts and bid on a superb selection of silent auction items.

This special event will help Grant Band fund the replacement of uniforms that date back to the 1960s and the purchase of much-needed new instruments for this vibrant program. Please join us to celebrate and support our wonderful youth musicians!

Tickets:

\$20 Adults; \$10 Youth/Senior; \$50 Family; Available at www.grantband.org or at the door. You can also book a table for 10 in advance with preferred seating for \$400.

Grant Band's success is possible with the support of our outstanding community. The procurement committee is looking for all kinds of items to put in the Sweet Sounds of Jazz auction and businesses to be event sponsors. To participate in this event, please consider becoming a sponsor or donating an auction item:

- Eiffel Tower Sponsor: \$1,000
(your logo on the event signage and website, a full page program ad, 8 tickets and a reserved table)
- Major Chord Sponsor: \$500
(your logo on the event signage and website, 1/2 page program ad, and 4 tickets)
- Minor Chord Sponsor: \$250
(your logo on the event signage and website, 1/4 page program ad, and 2 tickets)
- Donation items for the for Silent Auction:
Recognition and business listing in program

For more information, please visit www.grantband.org or contact Amy Geoffroy, band booster president, at geoffroyamy@gmail.com

ODOT RealTime: EW Regional Connections Project

The Oregon Department of Transportation and Washington County (*in a partnership project*) are expanding ODOT RealTime to more freeways and roads in our area. Many of the signs will be installed on I-84 between downtown and I-205. ODOT RealTime is a system that provides real-time traffic information on roads to help travelers get where they're going more safely and efficiently.

The signs include:

- Travel time signs will display estimated travel times to key destinations so that drivers can plan their arrival time or consider taking an alternate route.
- Traveler information signs will alert drivers about crashes, congestion, road conditions, closures and other traffic-related information, giving drivers the ability to make travel decisions in real time.
- Advisory speed signs will display advisory speed based on the traffic ahead. The advisory speeds will change as real-time conditions change.

You can see what the signs look like and learn more at: www.ODOTRealTime.org

Does your cat tinkle outside the box?



SOMETIMES a cat tinkling in the wrong place isn't too big of a deal. But a cat that frequently pees somewhere it shouldn't can threaten an entire household's sense of domestic tranquility. Although it may not feel like it, your cat is actually on your side in this: cats are fastidious creatures who really don't want to urinate outside their boxes.

If you're often finding pee where it doesn't belong, stop by and tell us about your cat. We can help you identify the cause and understand the science, and help you find an effective, natural solution.*

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Getting to Know Our Neighbors

The Blind Onion Pizza and Pub

Blind Onion is a Grant Park neighborhood pizza joint tucked into an inconspicuous space near the corner of 33rd & Broadway. This incredibly unique spot was once home to the likes of the Cubby Hole (a 1930s bar), The Blind Onion (a restaurant), Weird Old Harold's (a knickknack shop), and General's Pizza.

In 1996, the intimate space became The Blind Onion Pizza & Pub offering pizza, sandwiches, salads, board games, and craft beers in a lively, casual, nostalgic and fun atmosphere. Delicious pizza, cold microbrews, and a close friend that still sheds a tear, even during the upbeat songs right in our own neighborhood.

3345 NE Broadway,
Portland, Oregon 97232

Hours:

Mon-Thu: 11:00 am-10:00 pm

Fri-Sat: 11:00 am-11:00 pm

Sun: 11:00 am-10:00 pm



Connect to Kindergarten

Beverly Cleary Hollyrood invites interested parents to, **Connect to Kindergarten**, on Thursday, February 18, 2016, 9-10 am or 6:30-7:30pm; This is an open house to kick off the 2016-2017 school year registration.

Please join us at either time, (*no need to call ahead*). There will be an opportunity to meet the Principal, the Assistant Principal and learn about our Kindergarten program.

Registration packets will be available to take home to return by March 18th. Due to lack of space, this is a parents only event.

To register your child you will need:

1. Proof of Address.
2. Your child's birth certificate.
3. Proof of immunization.
4. Emergency contact names & phone numbers.

Beverly Cleary Hollyrood campus is located at: 3560 NE Hollyrood Court. Contact Karen Calabrese with questions, 503-916-6766.

GRANT PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

YOUR GRANT PARK NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNER

Grant Park Baptist Church does much more than stand on our steps and call out, "Come on in!" We are a small congregation that works very hard to partner with our neighborhood and city organizations to make our city, and especially our part of NE Portland, a wonderful place to live.

For example, on September 23, with the GPNA we sponsored "**Partners for Portland**," a panel comprised of Coach Terry Stotts of the Trail Blazers, Principal LaShawn Lee of Faubion School, and Director Scott Yarbrough of Third Rail Repertory Theatre. The panel discussed how their respective fields are working to make Portland a better place to live, work and play.

On November 28, we partnered with Portland Woman's Club to host an enormously successful Giving Fair to benefit Rose Haven Day Shelter for Homeless Women and Children located in NW Portland. The community donated to this cause, while enjoying a fun, old-fashioned, meet your neighbors fair.

Visit our website to get to know us, what we do, and what is coming up. If you would like to partner with us on a worthy cause, let us know.

Dr. Slayden Yarbrough, Interim Pastor

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Crime & Demolition Vex Grant Park

by Ken Peterson

GPNA scheduled a special meeting on November 17, 2015 to address neighbor concerns about apparent increases in local property crimes and demolition of a small home at 2581 NE 30th Avenue.

Mary Tompkins, ONI Crime Prevention Coordinator for 13 northeast Portland neighborhoods appeared together with Officer Craig Anderson to address the crime issues raised. Although postings on Nextdoor appear to support a recent increase in thefts, according to Tompkins reports of property crimes in Grant Park are actually slightly lower than last year. She urged residents to formally report crimes of all types to possibly generate more frequent patrols.

Officer Anderson concurred. Both advised that posting on Nextdoor is not a good alternative, as the city lacks resources to monitor that site carefully. They also provided information about creating neighborhood patrols and reminded attendees not to leave anything in cars, as even something of little or no value may prompt a break-in if it is visible. Reliably locking car doors and adding house motion sensor and/or night lighting also help.

The house on NE 30th will soon be demolished and replaced with a much larger, taller, wider one priced at more than twice the value of the current residence. GPNA scheduled this issue for special meeting to decide whether a delay appeal should be filed. Despite an invitation, the developer declined to appear.

After extensive discussion of the issues presented with neighbors, it appeared clear that the appeal criteria could not be satisfied in a timely manner. Moreover, neighbors admitted the current home is in very poor condition and may not be a renovation candidate. Finally, it appeared that many neighbors were more concerned with the likely design of the proposed new home rather than saving the current one. Since single-family homes in our neighborhood are not currently subject to design review, there appeared to be nothing GPNA could do to affect the demolition plans and no formal action was taken.

GPNA takes these kinds of neighborhood concerns seriously. We always like to hear from you about the issues you care about. Contact the GPNA Board at GrantPark@necoalition.org

Be Seen. Be Safe.

It's that time of the year again, when the sun rises later and the night approaches sooner. Children are walking, biking and rolling in the early morning dusk or evenings. Safe Routes to School strongly encourages families to think about how to travel safely in the dark. Here are some tips from the Portland Bureau of Transportation's Pedestrian, on how to be seen and be safe.

- **Be visible** - carry a flashlight or flashing pedestrian safety strobe, apply reflective stickers to your rain coat and backpack and/or sew-in retro-reflective tape on your jacket and coat.
- **Be alert** - take out your ear buds and put away your phone or other distractions while you cross.
- **Use signals or marked mid-block crossings** on busy streets. Drivers anticipate pedestrians at these locations more than unmarked crossings.
- **Look in all directions** before crossing and cross after all the cars have stopped or passed.
- **Make eye contact** with drivers before you cross to help communicate that drivers see you.
- **Stop and look** to make sure cars have stopped for you before crossing the next lane of traffic.



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Hug a Tree for Grant Park!

You can join Portland's Tree Inventory of Grant Park.

Urban Forestry is looking for volunteers to inventory the street trees of Grant Park this summer.

Urban Forestry, a division of Parks and Recreation, is hopeful that your community will join us for next summer's Street Tree Inventory project and are now accepting neighborhood applications (*The deadline is January 15, 2016*).

The purpose of this survey is to assess the health of our neighborhood's tree canopy. This is done by collecting data on species diversity, size, and condition of street trees – the ones between the street and the sidewalk. Inventories in years' past have proven to be great ways for friends and neighbors to come together to learn and explore this essential natural resource.

Urban Forestry provides the training, tools, mapping, and post-inventory tree plan assistance with future workshops and education. Your neighborhood tree team recruits volunteers for up to four inventory work days next summer, and follow-up outreach and workshops (*pruning, Tree identification, Title 11 Tree Code Talk, etc.*)

You can submit an application for your neighborhood, or just browse the website where you will find several helpful links including work timelines, and tips for constructing a strong application: Find the site at: www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/treeinventory.

Training will be provided and groups will decide upon four Saturdays within the summer to conduct their assessments. The information is compiled to provide the city with specific knowledge of our street tree stock. This vital information helps with replacement, diversity in planting choices, and identifying needs specific to that neighborhood.

This is the last group of neighborhood inventories to be done for the next ten years. So, become a part of not only documenting the present state of Grant Park's tree inventory, but helping the city grow our tree canopy for years to come. If you are interested, email Liz Hay, lizhay59@gmail.com.

Don't Take Our Trees for Grant-ed!

OK, so that's a bad pun, but the message is true... We have many beautiful trees in our neighborhood, but we need to replace the ones we've lost and make sure a new generation of trees is planted as well.

Some of the benefits of trees include:

- Capturing storm-water runoff
- Lowered heating/cooling costs
- Reduced pollutants
- Mitigating road noise
- Increased property values/pride of ownership

If you have any open areas in your right of way, want a yard tree, Friends of Trees will help you through the whole process. They will survey your planting strip, help you choose an appropriate tree/s, and plant them on March 5th. All for a mere \$35 a tree (planted) or, in some cases, FREE!

Visit friendsoftrees.org or call 503-282-8846 to help leave a legacy of trees and help the environment/beauty of our neighborhood. For questions, you can also email Liz Hay, lizhay59@gmail.com.

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