GPNA Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes – September 8, 2026
Submitted by Ari Grubner

Attending Board Members: Miro Wesener, Stacey Tipp, David Richardson, Jill DeRosa, Steve Haines, Debra Haines, Eldo Varghese, Daniel Hoyer, Ari Grubner, Liv Uyeda, Greg Nika

Absent:

Guests: Jessica Kramer, Mike Murphy, Brad Bater, John Mille, Lacy Patterson, an additional 10 guests in-person w/o sign-in, as well as 15 guests on Zoom.

Call to Order: Miro called the meeting to order at 7:06pm

1. Welcome, Sponsor Announcement, Introductions

Miro began by thanking our sponsor COOPER Design Build. Joined by a number of guests from the neighborhood, introductions around the room were given by board members.

2. New Board Members & Nominations* (Miro)

We welcomed our new Grant High School student rep Liv Uyeda by officially voting her onto the board. Stacey Tipp was thanked for her work as our newsletter editor before officially resigning from that role. Following this, we welcomed Debra Haines as our new newsletter editor. We then welcomed Greg Nika to the board as a member at-large before adding Stacey Tipp as a member at-large to the board as well.

* David Richardson motioned to add Liv Uyeda to the GPNA board as our Grant High School representative, seconded by Steve Haines, all in favor.

* Eldo Varghese motioned to add Debra Haines as our Newsletter Editor to the GPNA board, seconded by Jill DeRosa, all in favor.

* Steve Haines motioned to add Greg Nika as a member at-large to the GPNA board, seconded by David Richardson, all in favor.

* Steve Haines motioned to add Stacey Tipp as a member at-large to the GPNA board, seconded by Eldo Varghese, all in favor.

3. Approval of the agenda* (Miro)

* Following an amendment to add Land Use updates by Eldo prior to discussion on the rezoning project, David Richardson motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Jill DeRosa, all in favor.

4. Approval of April & May minutes* (Ari)

Following the mistake made with our meeting minutes at our previous meeting resulting in not approving April's minutes, the board was informed that we would vote to approve both April's and May's meeting minutes.

* David Richardson motioned to approve the April meeting minutes, seconded by Eldo Varghese, all in favor.

* David Richardson motioned to approve the May meeting minutes, seconded by Miro Wesener, all in favor.

5. Treasurer's Report * (David):

David Richardson provided an overview of YTD results through August. GPNA had revenues of $420, consisting of $361 from the Plant Sale donation and $59 of interest income. Expenses totaled $437, and included $196 for the P.O. Box renewal and $191 in GPNA essay contest costs. For the first two months of fiscal 3037, GPNA is approximately breakeven. The 8/31/26 cash balance was $15,857. He also compared FY 2026 YTD results with FY YTD 2025 and the full year FY 2026 budget.

David reported that the previous 501c4 GPNA entity has been officially dissolved. Additionally, two required filing for the new 501c3 GPNA entity have been filed: Form 990-N tax filing; and the OR Secretary of State annual report.

* Greg Nika motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Miro Wesener, all in favor.

6. Website update (David, Eldo, Stacey):

Eldo, David, and Stacey have been working together to successfully deliver on our conversation in May regarding our website. They have successfully onboarded and familiarized our web designer Sharon Columbo with our requests, resulting in our various requests being delivered.

There remains work and upkeep to do by GPNA members regarding future desired web updates; our IT committee remains open to new members.

7. Discussion on handling complaints re: Grant Park bowl lights (Miro):

Grant Park bowl lights are officially lit. Games played under the lights are permitted to go until 9:30pm with the bowl lights being turned off at 10pm. Permitting allows for the lights to remain on for extended hours with courtesy notifications given to neighbors. GPNA board discussed the board's role in handling complaints related to or resulting from the Grant Bowl lights.

Specific conversation was had across the room regarding experiences of increased parking issues since the bowl lights have turned on. Neighbors living along NE US Grant Place spoke to this increase and the frustrations they have experienced with city resources relating to parking. While Portland Parking Enforcement (503) 823-6814 was pointed to as a resource, conversation turned to other ways GPNA can advocate and support neighbors experiencing issues related to the bowl lights.

Including increased communication and coordination with Grant High School and GHS athletics, one solution tangible offered for home football games is an extra overflow parking lot provided at Grant Park Church. This tangible approach was received well and is being coordinated by Ari and Miro.

8. Open VP position (Miro):

Attention was given to our open VP position, the role and responsibilities, as well as acknowledgment of the importance of this position being filled in a timely manner.

9. Land Use (Eldo):

Gordon's: no status update has been offered recently from Do Good Multnomah.

Speed bumps on Knott: the timeline for the installation of additional speed bumps along Knott St has been pushed from July to September.

Beverly Cleary fountain: after successful appeals from neighbors, the designation of the Beverly Cleary fountain is going to be changed from "swimming" to "decorative," allowing the fountain to be re-opened for enjoyment.

10. Should GPNA take a position on the IE4A rezoning project? Discussion (All):

Discussion began at 7:40pm with a short presentation from Clare Long from the Architectural Heritage Center (AHC). The AHC has been active in hosting opportunities for those hesitant in regards to the current IE4A rezoning project to be in conversation with advocates from and for IE4A, such as Portland Neighbors Welcome. The AHC's

major concerns have included the compromising of historic locations as well as the anticipated strain on urban infrastructure resulting from the IE4A rezoning project. More conversation and involvement from the impacted communities as well as other NA's.

Discussion then pointed in the direction of whether GPNA should take a stance in regards to the IE4A rezoning project. Miro asked for clarity from the room on whether this question relates to GPNA taking a stance on the process the initiative has undergone, GPNA taking a stance on the initiative itself, or another option.

Thoughts and opinions on this were split. Key points made included a gap between neighborhood awareness about the IE4A proposal process, and previous communications in 2024 GPNA newsletters.

Timelines for a potential GPNA board stance on the initiative was discussed, including the hosting of educational events related to this rezoning project. One board member expressed the belief that interfacing with people in the neighborhood is a board responsibility and suggested conducting a neighborhood-wide survey/poll to gain feedback. These points led to some open expression of peoples' views in the room for the board to hear and consider; not all views expressed were able to be captured in the minutes in fullness.

* Eldo Varghese motioned to conclude this meeting's conversation as it relates to the IE4A initiative with the GPNA expressly choosing to take no current stance on the issue, moving forward with continued conversation regularly through the Land Use Committee, seconded by Ari Grubner, all in favor (3 abstentions from voting: Steve, Stacey, Greg).

Conversation concluded at 8:53pm.

11. Newsletter Editor's report (Stacey):

With respect for the time of neighbors and board members, Stacey shortened newsletter discussion to a summary of the decision, at this time, to continue printing and delivering our newsletter. We are grateful for Stacey's work on the newsletter as well as updating us consistently on her work! We are looking forward to Debra's tenure as newsletter editor!

12. Discussion of other communication items (All):

Due to time, this item was tabled for our next meeting.

13. NECN report (Miro):

Due to time, this item was tabled for our next meeting.

14. NET update (Steve):

Steve offered a brief update on the Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) meetings. encouraged people potentially interested in becoming a volunteer to contact him directly.

15. Discussion concerning safety and security (Jill):

Jill offered a brief update related to drug paraphernalia and paraphernalia-collection services specifically around the Hollywood / Grant Park area. Likewise, the graffiti and maintenance of Gordon's was addressed.

16. Events Committee Report: Neighborhood cleanup (Miro):

Due to time, this item was tabled for our next meeting. Miro and Liv will work together on this alongside the Events Committee.

17. When is the next GPNA Land Use meeting? (Eldo):

With discussion of the IE4A initiative continuing through the Land Use Committee, Eldo indicated that he would work with neighbors to set the next Land Use meeting.

18. Adjourn *

***** Eldo Varghese motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jill De Rosa, all in favor

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09pm.

Next Meeting: November 10, 2026
7-9pm at Grant Park Church