

GPNA Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2025
Submitted by Ari Grubner

Attending: Stacey Tipp, Jake Wicks, Ari Grubner, Jill DeRosa, Miro Wesener, Molly Hamill (NET), David Richardson, Tess Ipsen,
Absent: Bikram Vaidya, Neon Brooks
Guests: Keith Sessions, Linda Beberness, Linda Fahrekopf, Jess N., Teri Mckenzie, Meganne Steele, Daniel Hoyer, Virginia La Forte, Debbie Richardson, Bill Malloch

Call to Order: Molly Hamill called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

Welcome, Board and Guest Introductions:

- Short introductions around the room and online.

Thank Sponsor and Display Banners:

- Meeting began with a short recognition of gratitude for COOPER Design Build. Stacey showed our great new GPNA banners that include COOPER Design Build on them.

Approval of the agenda*

- Agenda correction: Land Use report to be offered towards end if Neon is able to attend.
- *Miro Wesener motioned to approve, seconded by Stacey Tipp, all in favor.

Guest Speaker - Teri McKenzie of NE Portland Village:

- Livability in and around Grant Park, specifically folks “aging in place.”
- NE Village serves residents 60+ through two levels of service. Spanning 18 neighborhoods in NE Portland, NE Village boasts approximately 160 members. Most members are members/volunteers, with other volunteers coming from all ages.

Approval of last meeting’s minutes*

- *David Richardson motioned to approve, seconded by Jill DeRosa, all in favor.

Vote on Bylaws Changes**

1. Article 2 Section 1: Voting to allow people employed within the Grant Park neighborhood to be members within the Grant Park Neighborhood Association.

- a. Some neighborhood associations allow this, others do not.
- b. The impetus to this proposed change was to encourage increasing the diversity of participation within the GPNA.
- c. Open discussion followed.

*David Richardson motioned to vote on this proposed bylaw change, seconded by Jill DeRosa. With 8 votes in favor, 4 votes against, and 1 vote abstaining, the vote **passed**.

2. Article 2 Section 1: Voting to change “church” to “faith community.”
 - a. This change has been proposed in order to be more inclusive of people of faith outside of Christian traditions and churches.

*David Richardson motioned to vote on this proposed bylaw change, seconded by Miro Wesener. With 10 votes in favor, 0 votes against, and 4 votes abstaining, the vote **passed**.

3. Article 3 Section 5: Voting to remove the requirement of proof of residence within the Grant Park neighborhood prior to participation within Grant Park Neighborhood Association meetings.
 - a. This change has been proposed as it has not been actively enforced.

*David Richardson motioned to vote on this proposed bylaw change, seconded by Jill DeRosa. With 14 votes in favor, 0 votes against, and 0 votes abstaining, the vote **passed** unanimously.

4. Article 3 Section 11: Voting on the addition of people included within the Grant Park Neighborhood Association statement on non-discrimination, including clarifying language around the neighborhood association not serving as a homeowner’s association.

*Miro Wesener motioned to vote on this proposed bylaw change, seconded by David Richardson. With 14 votes in favor, 0 votes against, and 0 votes abstaining, the vote **passed** unanimously.

5. Voting to update the description of the Secretary role.
 - a. This change has been proposed following the general sentiment that the description did not align with the current responsibilities of the role as assigned.

*David Richardson motioned to vote on this proposed bylaw change, seconded by Miro Wesener. With 14 votes in favor, 0 votes against, and 0 votes abstaining, the vote **passed** unanimously.

6. Voting to elevate the role of Land Use Chair to an officer position on the Board.
 - a. This change has been proposed that the high responsibility of the role of Land Use Chair be reflected more accurately within the structure of the Grant Park Neighborhood Association
 - b. Short open discussion followed.

*David Richardson motioned to vote on this proposed bylaw change, seconded by Jill DeRosa. With 12 votes in favor, 2 votes against, and 0 votes abstaining, the vote **passed**.

Updated Slate of Officers* and Call for Volunteers:

Current Slate of Officers as presented:

President (and NET team rep): Molly Hamill

Vice President(s): vacant

Secretary: Ari Grubner

Treasurer: David Richardson

Newsletter Editor (and Advertising Coordinator): Stacey Tipp

Land Use Chair: Neon Brooks

At-large Members as presented:

Miro Wesener (Grant High School Liaison and District 2 representative)

Tess Ipsen (Grant High School student representative)

Jill DeRosa

Bikram Vaidya

Jake Wicks

- *Jill Derosa motioned to accept the slate as presented, seconded by Miro Wesener. With a unanimous vote, the motion passed.
- Daniel Hoyer expressed interest and volunteered to serve as an at-large member
- *Molly Hamill nominated Daniel Hoyer to serve as an at-large member on the Grant Park Neighborhood Association, seconded by Ari Grubner. With a unanimous vote, Daniel Hoyer was accepted as an at-large member.

Treasurer's Report and Budget for 2025* (a) & Progress on EIN and Vote on Nonprofit Status (b):

David Richardson delivered a Treasurer's Report as of 2/28/25. He reported that there was no revenue or expense activity in February. On a fiscal year to date basis, GPNA has generated \$4,400 in receipts and less than \$2,000 in expenses. The bank balance at 2/28/25 was \$12,357, which is significantly higher than in the past. David also presented a comparative income statement that reflected the 2024 budget, calendar year 2024 actuals, and a projected fiscal 2025 budget. In calendar 2024, actual revenue far exceeded the 2024 budget, while actual expenses closely tracked budget. He noted that a final fiscal 2025 budget for the fiscal year starting 7/1/25 will be presented at the May board meeting.

*David Richardson motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Miro Wesener, with the board voting unanimously to accept the report.

David then reviewed an updated document comparing 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations, and provided proposed next steps in pursuing potential 501(c)(3) application. He reported that he had asked NECN representatives whether insurance coverage provided by NECN would be impacted by obtaining 501(c)(3) status. Stacey recommended that David also include civic life employees on any correspondence related to these issues, especially insurance and to seek their guidance in his research. David agreed to research what tax returns would be needed to be filed before reapplying, and will report back at the May meeting.

*Daniel Hoyer motioned to authorize David to pursue GPNA's application for potential 501(c)(3) status under the steps proposed, seconded by Jill DeRosa, with the board voting unanimously in favor.

Student Representative Report:

- Tess shared a report on beginning to recruit volunteers through the National Honors Society for our upcoming COOPER Design Build events.

Fundraising and Event Coordinator:

- Stacey shared further details about the April 5 donation event in partnership with COOPER Design Build and Do Good Multnomah.
- Fundraising and Events committee meeting again soon, join us!

Technology Committee Report:

- No report offered this meeting.

Livability Report (Public Environment Management Office):

- Molly attends PEMO meetings regularly, a bi-monthly online conversation between representatives of closeby neighbors across Portland and government and public officials.
- Concerns voiced recently re: livability around Grant Park related to: Portland People's Outreach Project, recent shots fired, and street racing on 42nd Avenue.

Newsletter:

- New deadline for the newsletter is May 23
- A "well done!" was shared for Stacey and the most recent edition of the newsletter
- Encouragement and welcoming neighbor contributions in the next newsletter

***Adjourn:**

- David Richardson motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Miro Wesener. With a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned.