

Hanson, Mary Cal

Subject: FW: GPNA October Meeting Minutes - Corrections
Attachments: 2_Public_Process_Timeline.doc; ATT00001.htm; MOU- Grant Field.pdf; ATT00002.htm

Subject: GPNA October Meeting Minutes - Corrections

Dear Geoff, Ron, MaryCal, K.C. and Andy,

I recently read over the minutes from the October meeting you invited me to attend.

I am shocked by how inaccurate the minutes are and would like to offer corrections for what it's worth.

"Emily Hicks: emilyhicks@ci.portland.or.us came to our meeting because Commissioner Fish has been unable to attend any of our previous offers to speak at a GPNA meeting. The hot topic was the "Leaf fee" that was recently approved by the commission. This is a \$15.00-30.00 fee to areas residents to fund the leaf removal program in highly treed neighborhoods. Leaves left in the street create several hazards and extra costs to the city to try and keep storm drains clog free. If you have questions/complaints please contact Emily."

Nick Fish represents all Portlanders, including over 90 Neighborhood Associations, over 100 Friends groups, and so on. He has always made his staff available to meet with neighborhood associations, and tries his best to make the meetings when he can. You may recall that he was prepared to attend the February 2010 meeting, but was asked not to attend because he did not provide 2 weeks notice (for purposes of circulating the agenda).

When Geoff asked me to come and speak to the group recently about the leaf tax, I let him know that our office is not involved with developing this new program. Because Portland City Council is a commission form of government, it is most effective to work with the Commissioner-in-charge. Nick Fish is in charge of the Housing and Parks Bureaus. In the case of the leaf tax, concerns/suggestions are best directed to the Bureau of Transportation and the Mayor's office. I explained this again at the meeting.

"Grant Park Fields update: This is still a hot button topic. The process used by the city & PPR has been frustrating and somewhat secretive, and exclusionary with regard to including any members from the GPNA. Emily Hicks (see above info) &/or Commissioner Fish are the contacts. Katie requested that Emily write an article for the next newsletter. The Memo of Understanding (MUO) can be terminated if the criteria aren't met. The private group Friends of GP Athletics has begun fund raising. There is also a website & a time line available. Geoff voiced concern about the issue of increase in number of games/programs/activities at the park. Ms. Hicks was unable to comment on the process or these issues."

The Grant Park Fields process has not been secretive or exclusionary. I have attached a summary of the process for you to review again. I find it odd that you say I was unable to comment on the process or the issue of increased use -- I thought I was very clear in my response: As a result of the public process, the scope of the proposed improvements exclude many of the elements that the GPNA did not support. PP&R's approval of the MOU was based in part on two conditions: the scope of the proposed improvements enhance existing uses in the park and that they do not increase the use that currently occurs there. This is in direct response to the feedback received from park neighbors. I attached the MOU for you to also review again.

I am happy to provide you with updates when I have them. As you know, the Friends of Grant Athletics are currently fundraising for the project. At this time I have no further information to include in your newsletter.

I am disappointed by the way I have been treated and expect more from our neighborhood leaders.

Emily

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