



Grant Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 13102, Portland, OR 97213

Spring 2008

Grant Bowl Development

The Grant Park Neighborhood Association will take a position at the May 13th general meeting on the development proposed in Grant Park. We've come a long way from the time the proposal was first discussed in 2005.

Three years ago, a private developer came to our general meeting to discuss possible funding to develop Grant Park's athletic fields, which are owned by Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R) and Portland Public Schools (PPS). In response, our neighborhood association board formed the Development Review Committee (DRC) to facilitate discussions with PP&R, PPS and the developer, ensure a transparent evaluation process, and report back to the Board and membership.

Over the years, the plan changed hands from a private developer to PPS, and the development reduced in scale from lights, artificial turf fields, bleachers and fencing to artificial turf fields, a berm along US Grant Place, track resurfacing and track equipment replacement. There are other possible amenities that are possible if funding allows.

The DRC attempted to participate in all conversations and proactively work towards a plan that would

be eventually presented to our neighborhood.

Unfortunately, PPS and PP&R have repeatedly shown by their actions that they do not share our commitment to an inclusive and transparent process.

Firstly, the development plan was completed prior to the open house and public comment. Secondly, DRC was never invited to development planning meetings between PPS and PP&R. Thirdly, a PP&R planner wrote two memoranda describing steps that must be taken to avoid City review processes. Finally, when the open house was first discussed last year, PPS and PP&R invited our neighborhood association to co-sponsor the event. The choice of date, however, for the open house wasn't discussed prior to scheduling and conflicts with our annual neighborhood clean up.

Most board members and many members of our neighborhood will participate in this annual clean up and attending the open house will be made very difficult. Also, the event is structure to strictly inform attendee about the proposal. It is unknown how or if comments received will be incorporated into the proposal.

continued on page 3

Childcare at GPNA General Meetings

Childcare will be provided at the May 13th General Meeting of GPNA. Please email Grantpark@necoalition.org and give us the number and ages of the kids. We hope to see you at the meeting!

IN THIS ISSUE

- Election of Officers
- No Foot Patrol
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- Clean-Up 2008
- Adult & Senior Programs
- Junior Rose Parade
- Fernwood Field
- Newsletter Delivery
- and more ...

Next General Meeting

May 13, 2008
Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Grant Park Church
2728 N.E. 34th Ave.
(at Knott)

AGENDA

Elections
Committee Reports
Foot Patrol Volunteers
Grant Park Development
Fernwood Development
Neighborhood Clean-up
Past meeting minutes
Summer Break
Old & New Business
Announcements

Future Meetings

(tentative)
June 3, 2008 (Board)
August 19, 2008 (Board)
September 30, 2008 (General)
October 28, 2008 (Board)

GPNA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President:
Elizabeth Beeghly 503-288-5527

Vice President:
Ron Laster 503-287-9566

Treasurer:
Merryl Mix 503-282-5446

Secretary:
Mary Cal Hanson 503-288-2878

Communications:
KC Davenport 503-288-3340

Land Use:
Geoff Hyde 503-281-4097

At Large:
Liz Alexander 503-331-1381

From the President's Desk

An elderly pedestrian was walking down the street and tripped on a raised portion of the sidewalk in front of my neighbor's house. Unfortunately, the pedestrian broke her wrist. This raised area was less than a quarter of an inch, just enough to catch the pedestrian's toe.

The City of Portland contacted my neighbor and gave them 20 days to begin repairs on the sidewalk. A week later my neighbor received a letter in the mail from a lawyer asking for compensation for the pedestrian's hospital bills.

This true story is a reminder that sidewalks need occasional maintenance to keep them safe and usable. In the City of Portland, you are responsible to ensure your sidewalk is in good repair. Here is a list of items to look for:

1. "Step separations," where a part of the sidewalk is raised, leaving an edge where a person could easily catch a heel or toe and fall.
2. Badly cracked concrete, which creates holes and rough spots as the concrete continues to break apart.
3. Settled areas that trap water. Puddles and mud form after rains, and these can freeze into slippery ice patches during cold weather. Both are dangerous to pedestrians.
4. Tree root damage, which often results in one or more of the other three defects.

Complaints or if you have questions about sidewalk maintenance call 503-823-1711.

Elizabeth Beeghly,
GPNA President
503-288-5527

GRANT PARK CHURCH

A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE ARE WELCOME TO DISCOVER HOW MUCH GOD LOVES THEM. OUR MISSION IS TO BE A PLACE OF HOPE IN PORTLAND. ALL DIFFERENT KINDS OF FAMILIES AND PEOPLE ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAY AT 11 A.M. CALL IF WE CAN BE OF SUPPORT ON YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY.

503-282-5596

Election of GPNA 2008 Officers

We will be electing our 2008-2009 GPNA Principal Officers at the May 13th Meeting. The Board will recommend a slate of officers, and nominations will be taken. Members can nominate themselves.

There are five elected positions on the board:

President - Is the Chief Executive Officer of the GPNA corporation and presides at all meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors.

Vice President - (one or two) In the absence of the President, the duties of the President are performed by the Vice Presidents as designated.

Treasurer - Responsible for the corporation funds.

Secretary - Keeps the minutes and correspondence of all meetings. Maintains the attendee lists.

Communications - Prepares the newsletter and maintains the Association website.

Web Master - Updates the GPNA website, facilitates future possible web development

The GPNA Board helps formulate direction, implement policy, and develop an agenda for the Association's general meetings. The Board is also responsible for maintaining and updating the bylaws, ensuring the fiscal well being of the Association, developing transparent, open and objective processes, and acts for the Association on time sensitive issues.

Aside from the Officer positions, there can be up to 10 "At Large" positions available. There are four General meetings per year, and a minimum of four Board meetings (usually one month before each General meetings)

For additional information please contact any current Board member (listed on page 1).

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Grant Bowl Development *continued from page 1*

The neighborhood association is now in a difficult position. Until this point, we haven't stated an opinion about any element of the proposal. However, the board now feels that our participation appears to be an afterthought and we are unclear how comments from users and those who might be impacted will be used in the proposal. This open house was potentially a place to air concerns in an open manner.

Some of these questions include:

- How will the million dollar investment in artificial turf be protected against, dogs, food, illegal use and vandals with spray paint or fireworks? Will a fence be set up? If not, what will be the review process if the need for a fence arises in the future?
- In the Hollywood Star article, Doug Capps states the "number of users would remain the same." Define use and users. Does this mean that there will be no additional organized games or regional sporting events, while practices and unorganized games increase on the all weather artificial turf.
- What is the anticipated cost of field replacement? Will the cost of improvement be paid for by private or public funds? How will the money be assured?
- Explain the division of Grant High School and community uses? What new Grant teams will use the fields for practice, games and events? What groups will be displaced? If the groups are unknown, how many groups will be displaced?
- Explain the environmental impact of artificial turf?
- Will comments received at the open house be used in decision making? (please explain)
- Is PPS and PP&R prepared to produce a Good Neighbor Agreement that ensures all elements of use which are illegal without Portland Zoning Code land use approval do not occur, such as noise amplifiers, additional use, glare from lighting and litter? In addition, the agreement should address the timeframe for repairing the artificial turf if it is damaged or vandalized.

The open house is the only chance for neighbors, and other interested individuals to learn about the development before it is forwarded to the School Board and City Council for approval. With construction beginning as early as this summer, the time for public comment was over before it began.

At our May 13th general meeting we will discuss the development and take a position on this issue.

Grant Development Open House

The Grant Park community has been invited to attend an informational Open House at Grant High School on Saturday, April 26, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The open house is being held to provide information to the community about the latest plans for restoring and improving the sports playing fields at Grant Park and Grant High School.

Staff from Portland Public Schools (PPS) and Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) will present information related to the plan including: which fields are being recommended for renovation; the data collected on current uses of these fields; how passive non-organized areas of Grant Park will be protected; the pros and cons of all-weather turf; and the 10 Great Fields initiative.

"Ten Great Fields" is an initiative designed to improve each PPS high school track and field so that they will meet NCAA standards. The Grant Park Field proposal was included in the "Ten Great Fields" project when it was forwarded to PPS, although the land is actually owned by PP&R.

The plan for work on these fields has gone through several revisions, and now includes primarily those major maintenance elements that will improve the playing surfaces in Grant Bowl (which is owned by PP&R) and the "upper field" where baseball and soccer are played (PPS property).

Following the open house, the final plan will be forwarded to the Portland School Board and to Commissioner Dan Saltzman for possible acceptance or approval.

If approved, and if funds can be raised, construction could begin as early as the summer of 2008.

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Is the Fernwood Athletic Field Development in Zoning Code Violation?

By the time you read about the plans for the proposed changes to the Fernwood athletic field in the last newsletter, most of work was finished.

This development came as a surprise to the Grant Park Neighborhood Association, the Hollyrood-Fernwood PTA, many neighbors abutting the site, the Bureau of Development Services (BDS), and the city agency that enforces the Portland Zoning Code (PZC). The PZC has rules for development on all proposals in the City of Portland, including the Portland Public School (PPS) sites.

We've recently learned that the Fernwood athletic field might be in violation of these rules. The elements of the plan that could trigger a review include: increase in use, the bleachers, a sound system, and future tournaments.

If PPS is found to be in violation, a land use review, such as an Adjustment Review or Conditional Use Review, will be required to legalize the situation. Therefore, before the first game is played on the new field, BDS must render a decision based upon all elements of the proposal against the PZC. All violations – games played on the field prior to the rendering of a decision – will be in violation and could result in fines against PPS.

Waiting to “unveil the plan until everything was finalized” was a grave error. It is possible that thousands of dollars of improvement will have to be removed, two sports clubs will be further from their dream of a home field and PPS will pay thousands of dollars in fines before their error is rectified. The victims of this poorly planned development – Hollywood Little League, Hollywood Soccer Club, parent of students at Hollyrood-Fernwood School,

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Grant Park resident, and Portland taxpayers - should expect more from PPS, a savvy proprietor that owns over 85 sites throughout Portland.

The Fernwood athletic field is owned by PPS and they are responsible for following the required city procedures as well as outreach to the surrounding community. With conversations about the field starting in 2006, there was ample opportunity to contact all interested parties as well as the BDS to discuss the development plan.

We urge you to tell PPS that this behavior isn't acceptable. They must follow the PZC as all property owners in the city of Portland are required to do. Furthermore, PPS shouldn't try to hide behind philanthropic endeavors as a response to their shortcomings on their own land.

Please go to the Grant Park Neighborhood Association website to find links to the Portland School Board members and let them know your feelings on this issue.

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Help Make Fernwood Even Better

Join Corrie Heselius, AmeriCorps, SOLV Down by the Riverside Project, QFC, and Fernwood students in a SOLV beautification project on Saturday, May 17th from 10 am till 2 p.m. We plan on cleaning up around Fernwood and QFC, planting flowers around Fernwood, and making this area more beautiful.

This event will happen rain or shine, so hope for sunshine! Please contact Corrie Heselius if you are interested in volunteering, (503) 916-5314, cheselius@portlandimpact.org.

School Events 2008

Here are some of the upcoming events for Grant High School and Hollyrood-Fernwood K-8:

April 24-26 Grant HS "Beauty and the Beast"
 April 28 JV Baseball at 4:30
 April 29 Grant HS Tennis at 4:15
 April 30 Grant HS V Baseball at 4:30
 May 1-3 Grant HS "Beauty and the Beast"
 May 1 Grant HS Tennis at 4:15
 May 1 Grant HS V Baseball at 4:30
 May 5 Grant HS JV Baseball at 4:30
 May 7 Grant V Baseball at 4:30
 May 8 Grant V Baseball at 4:30
 May 12 Grant V Baseball at 4:30
 May 15 Grant HS Spring Vocal concert at 7:30
 May 17 Fernwood Spring Grounds Clean from 10 -2
 May 26 no school
 June 10 last day of school

School Hours:

Grant HS - 8:05am - 3:01pm.

Lunch - 11:37am until 12:19pm

Fernwood - 8:30am - 3:00pm.

Hollyrood - 8:30am - 2:45pm.



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Junior Rose Festival Parade

Portland's Fred Meyer Junior Rose Festival Parade is the nation's oldest and largest children's parade. It attracts hundreds of spectators to Portland's Hollywood and Grant Park neighborhoods each June.

2008 Date and Time

Parade begins Wednesday, June 4, 1 p.m. Parade participants may begin to gather as early as 11 a.m.

Street Closures

Sandy Blvd. closes at 11:30 a.m. to facilitate the start of the parade. The rest of the parade route is closed at approximately 12:30 p.m. The parade generally lasts until 3 or 3:30 p.m.

Parade Route

The parade begins at NE Sandy & 52nd, marches down NE Sandy to NE 40th where it turns right. At NE Tillamook the parade turns left. It ends at NE Tillamook & 36th at Grant High School. The route takes about 45-60 minutes to walk.

Formation and Disband Areas

The formation area is eight square blocks between NE Sacramento & Tillamook and NE 57th & 53rd. Normandale Park is also used for bands and dance units. The Grant Bowl is used as a disband area.

Spectators

The Parade attracts hundreds of spectators who line the streets. There is no bleacher seating for this event. Seating and parking can be tight, so please consider walking to the event or using public transportation.

Participants

The Fred Meyer Junior Parade welcomes all children, up to and including middle-school. To learn more, visit www.rosefestival.org/events/juniorparade/.

Neighbors

Committee members visit and drop off fliers to all businesses along the parade route and residences in the formation area to advise them of the parade.

Clean-Up

We make every effort to provide ample garbage cans and to encourage participants to keep our parks and streets clean. We thank our city partners and the Hollywood Boosters for their help in this effort!

Foot Patrol – There Won’t Be One!

The Grant Park community didn’t find a Coordinator to organize the foot patrol this spring, summer and fall. We did receive an outpouring of interest in participating in the patrol. Without a Coordinator, however, the foot patrol cannot operate.

At the January general meeting, Officer Ric Deland recognized the rise in drug use, drug dealing, loitering and unruly behavior in Grant Park and Fernwood. He warned that this behavior will only increase as school ends and weather improves. ‘This small group of bad kids will try to take over the park’

What can we do?

Officer Deland gave us some advice to help make the park less appealing to illegal activity.

- Call the police non-emergency line when large groups of kids congregate in the park.
- Watch for bizarre vehicle behavior – coming and going repeatedly, kids going to the window for quick conversations – take down the license plate and report it to police non-emergency.
- Day or night, call non-emergency for any smoking or drinking activity or a large gathering of teens.
- If you feel intimidated, call 911
- If you see or smell drugs, call 911.

For safety reasons, never approach misbehaving kids in the park. Make calls outside their view or at home.

The illegal activity will probably get worse without greater neighborhood and user reporting. Questionable behavior should be reported directly to Officer Ric Deland at 503-823-5858 who is working to recognize the kids, their patterns and stop this problem before it gets worse.

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Adult & Senior Programs

The Urban League of Portland, Adult & Senior Services Program is excited to announce opportunities for seniors age 60 and up to have fun with their peers by going on field trips, having lunch, playing games, going shopping, and much more at the Urban League Multicultural Senior Center.

All of our activities are wheelchair accessible and open to those with disabilities. There is a van that will transport seniors to and from activities. The Urban League also offers case management services that link seniors to other agencies for transportation, in-home and personal care services, food and nutrition services, tax and legal assistance, and more. Most of these services are at no cost to seniors.

The purpose of The Urban League of Portland, Adult & Senior Services Program is to promote the health, well-being, and economic security of seniors by enabling them to live independently and safely in their homes for as long as possible.

If you would like to obtain more information, fliers, cards, or brochures, please contact us by calling our information and assistance line at 503-280-2632 or Arleta Ward, Activity Coordinator at the Senior Center at (503) 988-5470.

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Grant Park Neighborhood Neighborhood Clean-Up 2008

Once again this year, there will be a Neighborhood Clean Up on April 26th from 9 am to 1 pm, held in the parking lot of Grant Park Church, located at 2728 NE 34th Avenue. We are asking only \$10 per car load and \$20 per pick-up load.

There will be separate drop boxes for general waste and for yard debris. Other vendors will also be available to recycle or reuse your unwanted items including scrap metal, building materials and supplies, reusable household items, and bicycles & bicycle parts, which will go to the Community Cycling Center. In addition, there will be areas for swapping/selling plants and other items.

We hope our neighbors will take this opportunity to clean out some of those things we've all been meaning to get rid of, but our funding limits the number of drop boxes so when they are full the clean-up will have to close.

Here are some of the details:

The biggest confusion people have had in the past is what qualifies as yard debris and what building materials can be reused or recycled.

The rules for yard debris are similar to your curbside rules: no rocks, stumps; metal, plastic, branches more than 4 thick, animal waste, garbage, dirt, or sod. You can add unpainted and untreated wood but not plywood or particle board.

Recyclable building materials should be sound and free of major defects. Lumber should be at least four feet long without nails.

No hazardous waste: including paint, pesticides, fertilizer, batteries, disinfectants, motor oil, or medical waste. We also cannot accept tires, TVs, computer monitors, phones or refrigerators.

Scrap Metal will be collected by Schnitzer Steel, please see their website for details on what can be collected. www.schnitzersteel.com/metals_recycling_policies.aspx

You can save yourself (and us) a lot of trouble and effort by separating or grouping your materials as you load your vehicle, rather than after you arrive at the clean-up.

This year's sponsors include The Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (the umbrella organization that assists the neighborhood associations and distributes grant money; METRO grants us waivers on the dumping fees; and the Office of Sustainable Development assists with hauling fees and related expenses. We would also like to thank the Grant Park Church, Family Medical Group and The Real Estate Firm who have permitted us to stage this event in their parking lot.

A Call for Volunteers:

If you would like to get involved, we would love to have you. Volunteers should bring work gloves and wear protective clothing and footwear.

In the past we had quite a few Grant High School volunteers and several families have expressed interest in volunteering for the clean up. We are overjoyed at the interest the students and the community have taken in this event. Parents, working side by side with their children, send such a strong message about the care and value that we place on our environment.

At the same time we must be cautious about issues of safety at the clean up.

There is constant vehicular traffic at the site. Cars and trucks are backing up. Drop boxes are being loaded and unloaded. People are tossing items from car to drop box. Sometimes there is broken glass or pieces of sharp metal.

This is not a safe site for young children. We are happy to have all high school volunteers. Middle school students are welcome if accompanied by a responsible adult. Sorry, we do not feel that elementary age students can be safely monitored.

So we would like to encourage parents with younger children to participate in this event by having the children help to prepare at home. Discuss with your children what items can be brought to the clean up. Focus on how items may be reused or recycled instead of thrown away. Let your children assist in loading the car and accompanying you to the clean up. These are appropriate ways for young children to become involved in the event and we look forward to their participation in the future.

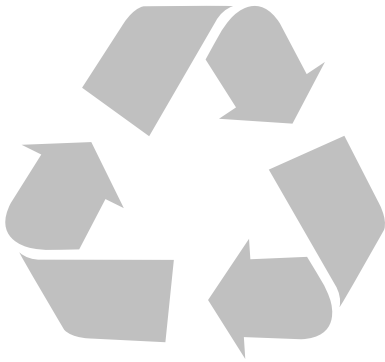
Grant Park Neighborhood Association Drive-thru Spring Clean-up

Saturday, April 26, 2008
9am to 1pm

(materials will not be accepted after the event closes
and cannot be left on-site)

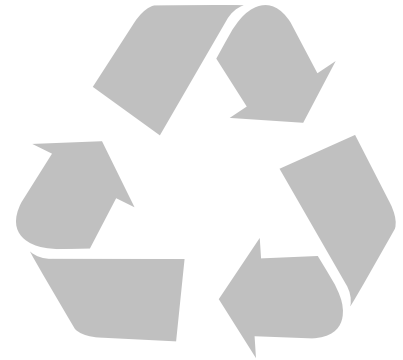
Where:

NE 34th Ave. & Knott
(the parking lot of Grant Park Church)
\$10 donation per car load, \$20 per truck load



Drop-off items Accepted:

- Non-hazardous garbage
- Yard debris
- Scrap metal
- Building materials
- Bulky household waste
- Donations (i.e. Goodwill)
- Bicycles and Bicycle Parts



NOT Accepted

- Hazardous materials
- Plastics (for recycling)
- Cell phones
- Computers, monitors and peripherals
- Televisions

(to find out what is hazardous, visit: www.metro-region.org/article.cfm?articleid=644)

Thanks to our sponsors: The Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, METRO, and the Office of Sustainable Development, Grant Park Church.

Volunteers Needed!

We will provide coffee & muffins. You provide muscles & brains.
For information or to volunteer, please contact us at Grantpark@necoalition.org