

GRANT PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Meeting planned for Grant Park off-leash area

By Ken Peterson

Grant Park Neighborhood Association, vice-president and land use chair

After nearly two years of negotiations with the Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation (PBPR), there is good news to report concerning off-leash dogs, their human companions, and other affected Grant Park visitors. PBPR recently approved Grant Park Neighborhood Association's project proposal to create a permanent fenced area for dogs. Although some hurdles remain, PBPR will no longer require project supporters to raise funds for both a dog off-leash area in Grant Park and for another park elsewhere in Portland.

The next step is a public engagement meeting during which input from interested stakeholders will be received before the next steps are determined. That meeting will take place Thursday, October 1, 2015, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Grant Park Church, 2728 N.E. 34th Ave (corner of Northeast 34th Avenue and Knott Street). Expected to attend and participate from PBPR are Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong,

community engagement manager; Sue Glenn, manager, North/Northeast zone; and Mike Grosso, PBPR maintenance supervisor. PBPR officials will seek to gauge public interest and support for the project, receive input concerning which of three possible locations is most favored, and determine what amenities are important to park users, such as water access and seating. Cost estimates of different options may be available to help attendees determine preferences, as it will be necessary to privately raise funds for the project.

Additional detailed information concerning the meeting agenda will be provided through a variety of media resources, including signs in the park, leaflets, and other forms of print and digital communication likely to reach a broad range of interested parties.

If this issue interests you, please attend the meeting. More perspectives help ensure a successful outcome. One note: Although canine companions are among the interested parties, they should remain at home. There could be a large turnout and space is limited.



Portland Parks & Recreation offers 33 places for dogs to play off-leash in the city. The organization recently approved Grant Park Neighborhood Association's project proposal to create a permanent fenced area for dogs. (Portland Parks and Recreation)

GRANT HIGH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Grant High's largest class celebrates 50 years

By Chip Kessler

Grant High School, class of 1965

The largest high school class in Oregon up to that time (1965), and the largest Grant graduating class ever celebrated its 50th reunion on August 21, 22 and 23.

Things have changed a little in 50 years. One ring on the family phone back then and it was your neighbors, two rings and it was your house.

The volunteer committee figured out early on that word of mouth and Facebook would not get the job done in contacting as many classmates as possible. We chose Reunions With Class as the company helping us in finding as many as possible and put on the main event Saturday night.

We had 894 graduating seniors, of those we found 635 people, 168 students could not be found, 92 are deceased and we ended up with 300 classmates and spouses attending Saturday night's big event.

Before Saturday night came Fremont on Friday, all of the feeder grade schools chose a meeting place Friday on Fremont for dinner and catch-up knowing the next night would be overwhelming.

One exception was Kennedy school, they just had to meet at McMenamins Kennedy School.

After dinner and drinks it was wonderful wandering Fremont to see who you bumped into or could recognize. There was a great turn out at all the sites.

Saturday night was at Riverside Country Club. The five hours at Riverside were gone in a wisp. Committee members set up a memorabilia table with many flashes from the past, letter-man sweaters, group shots from back in the day, photos of Yaws, The Speck, KISN Radio etc.

A photo board of all the classmates who



Longtime Grant coach and teacher Mark Cotton, center, with his wife Jane and Class of 1965 student Ken Zell. (Chip Kessler)

have passed was also displayed. Our true celebrity classmate Sally Struthers made it and graciously put up with many selfies. The time just flew by.

We were not finished yet. Sunday was an ice cream social at U. S. Grant attended by around 150. We hired the head custodian to open the school for us. After ice cream and an hour or so wandering the hallowed halls (center hall got small and there really is an elevator now) we met in the auditorium for a short talk by Wayne Curtin the head custodian laying out what was planned to happen in two years when the remodel happens.

The Royal Blues then performed some new songs they were just learning and then the Grant anthem and fight song. Give me a G. The ice cream donations raised \$200 that will be donated to the Royal Blues. We are looking forward to our 55th and seeing how that wonderful high school has been transformed.



Irvington elementary teacher Art Martin, left, with former student Joe Mann at Alameda Brew Pub. (Chip Kessler)



Coach and teacher Dick Hennessy, left, with class of 1965 student Pete McMasters. (Chip Kessler)



The class gathers in the main hallway for an ice cream social on Sunday afternoon. (Chip Kessler)



Singing the fight song in the old auditorium with the Royal Blues. (Chip Kessler)