



Volume 1, Issue 1 • Grant Park Neighbors is a special project of Ante Meridiem, Inc., a 501(c)3 California Non-Profit Corporation • Fall 2019

## Neighbors Adopt Grant Park

The Grant Park Neighbors officially adopted Grant Park on May 20, 2019. Working closely with Mike Godsy (Field Supervisor, East Zone Parks) and Tony Elliot (Director, Parks & Recreation Department), a Memorandum of Agreement was signed with a Work Plan adopted a few weeks later. As Adopt-a-Park stewards, Grant Park Neighbors has committed to preserving, protecting, and collaborating with the Parks Department to maintain the park grounds in furtherance of the



over a dozen workers, the industrious crew spread mulch, gardened, and generally cleaned up the Park. This work earned us 24 hours toward the 500 hours for the year, under our agreement with the City.



recreational, natural, and safe enjoyment of the open space.

Expected to complete no less than 500 volunteer hours over the upcoming year, Grant Park Neighbors kicked off their service to the neighborhood resources on Sunday, June 2 from 7 a.m. until all the work was complete at 10 a.m. With just



## Neighbors Accept Proposal to Form a 501©3 Nonprofit Corporation

In July a GPN ad hoc committee recommended we become a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. The ad hoc committee members that proposed incorporation are Heather Putnam, Bob Kardon, Peter Glynn, Brad Angell, and Nicholas Andrews.

The committee concluded that a nonprofit organization would be the best way for us to continue building our Grant Park community. As a nonprofit we will be legally recognized by local officials, businesses, and other social service organizations as a representative body. This enhances our ability to speak out about new developments, social issues, and opportunities that impact our neighborhood. Also, GPN will be able to offer a tax deduction for donations, enter into agreements with local government and be eligible for foundation grants.

In mid-August Brad polled the 120 GPN neighbors on our email list. 37 completed the questionnaire with 33 approving (89%), and four responded with an "I am uncertain of my choice." (11%)

The survey also asked for nominations for a "creation committee" to apply to the IRS for nonprofit status. The following neighbors were nominated to serve on the committee. (in alphabetical order by last name) Peter Glynn, Melody Hendron, Heather Putnam, Chris Same, and Laura Sullivan. The Creation Committee will draft bylaws for approval by the membership and will recommend a governance structure. As part of the application process Heather Putnam has volunteered to draft a one-year budget, which will include projections of our costs, e.g., events, neighborhood improvements and potential sources of donations, in-kind services, and grants.



### Vision Statement

Grant Park Neighbors (GPN) will work with the Parks and Recreation Department, Santa Cruz City and County to promote a safe and welcoming environment for neighbors and the community to gather for recreational, leisurely, and family activities, and to enjoy the beauty of the park.

More Information, details for events, news and volunteer opportunities can be found on our website - [grantparkneighbors.org](http://grantparkneighbors.org)  
Or contact us at - [grantpark95060@gmail.com](mailto:grantpark95060@gmail.com)



### Upcoming Events

**Next Meeting  
Sept 22nd**

At 11:00 am.

**Block Party  
Sept 29th**

Grant Park Neighbors (GPN) will host a Block Party that begins at the cross-street of May Avenue and Coulson Avenue, and runs down May Avenue north into the South entrance of Grant Park.

Support Grant Park Neighbors with your purchases on [Amazon with Smile](https://www.amazon.com/?ref=ast_seller)  
Also with your local purchases using [Escrip](https://www.escrp.com/), you have to find Ante Meridiem, Inc. to donate to.

## Parks Department Installs Pump Track; Ribbon Cutting Draws Local Representatives

With some measure of reservation, neighbors accepted the generous offer from the City Parks & Recreation Department to install a moth-balled pump track on the north side of Grant Park. A pump track is a circuit of rollers and banked turns designed for riders pumping up and down instead of pedaling or pushing. After the track's quick success and a general community-wide acceptance of the park improvement, the Parks Department hosted a ribbon-cutting on Friday, July 19 at 4 PM. Representing the Sunrise Rotary Club, Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz, the City Council, County of Santa Cruz, the Parks Department, and the Grant Park Neighbors, the ribbon was cut while neighbors circuited the \$60,000 piece of equipment that had been originally donated to the city in 2016.



## A Good Neighborhood

By Bob Kardon

Before GPN I walked the neighborhood with my small white dog (Stanley) and enjoyed playing my role as the old man “patrolling” the streets of my hood, twice a day. I always took my cell phone in the event the I saw something untoward, and, in fact, called 911 a half dozen times a year, reporting unconscious people lying across the sidewalk or creek path, or some shouting threatening obscenities at passersby. Then along came Brad and GPN. At our meetings I got to recognize, for the first time in 20 years, a couple of dozen neighbors instead of just a handful.

Our bi-weekly meetings in the park and other events have sparked my imagination about what might be possible in becoming a good neighborhood. I’ve begun asking neighbors and friends if they have an idea of what that might be. Some light up and describe neighborhoods from their past that they loved. Others were blank on the concept but seemed intrigued by the possibility.

I started Googling the literature on “good neighborhoods” and found several national and statewide studies on the topic. There are also writers who believe that true democracy will have to be reinvigorated by the myriad of experiments in creating sustainable and vibrant neighborhood throughout the US.

What I would like to do is see if there are other GPN members who would like to dialogue about the Good Neighborhood. We have made such good progress with our GPN efforts to make our Park better, improve relationships with the City and other nonprofit organizations, that we seem poised to spread our wings and see what our common vision might achieve.

## Security Update

Due to the advocacy of Grant Park Neighbors – specifically Peter Glynn – along with other Santa Cruz community advocates, First Alarm continues a regular foot patrol for the upcoming fiscal year (July '19 – June '20). With a beat that covers upper Ocean Street and Grant Park, in spite of budget cuts to the service, First Alarm’s Frank Simpliciano covers an area that runs north from Marianne’s to Denny’s, then cycles through the Park neighborhood twice a day. GPN parents are especially happy that Frank serves as a safety guard at the De Laveaga bus pickups and drop-offs. Frank loves to chat with neighbors, so feel free to say ‘hello’ and thank him for his help.

### Here are some general car security tips:

- Park car in garages if at all possible.
- Keep garage doors closed, even if you are home.
- Always lock car doors (even if in the garage)
- Do not leave valuables inside your car.
- If you have to park your car outside the garage; remove your garage door opener.
- NEVER leave your keys inside your car.
- Never leave your car running unattended.