



Volume 2, Issue 4 + Grant Park Neighbors is a special project of Ante Meridiem, Inc., a 501(c)3 California Non-Profit Corporation + July 2020

Raneta Pomeroy is a local dog owner and neighbor in the Grant Park community. After noticing that the dog park was marred with deep holes, Raneta reached out to GPN to address this issue. GPN's Bob Kardon interviewed Raneta to learn about her history with the dog park and her opinion on the parks maintenance and GPN's role in improving the community.



Raneta Pomeroy, Glenwood Avenue

Interview with Raneta Pomeroy

Grant Park Neighbors: There's been a lot of talk around the neighborhood about the condition of the dog park at Grant Park. You're a regular there with your dog Olive. What is your experience in the dog park?

Raneta: It is really, really riddled with deep holes. Grass fills in the holes and you can't see it. I know a 75 year-old man who has fallen in a hole three times. The City used to drop off dirt for neighbors to fill in the holes. I hope they do it again. The other thing is that the fence is too short. Lots of dogs can easily jump it. I know Brad has asked the City to raise it to five feet.

GPN: Do you know when the dog park was established?

R: I'm not sure. I think it was, maybe, five years ago.

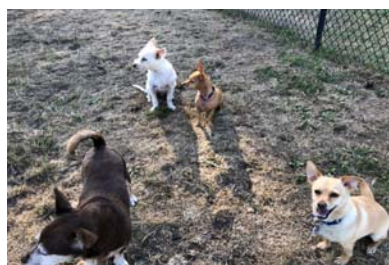
GPN: What do you think of GPN's efforts to improve Grant Park?

R: Very positive. We need children to have a safe place to go; we need the open space. It's a fabulous resource for the neighborhood. I'd like to see that the neighbors know about GPN's good work. We could use a printed copy of the newsletter to distribute to those neighbors who don't get it online. I'd be glad to give it out.

GPN: What else would you like to say to neighbors about the dog park?

R: I would like to remind folks to pick up their dog's excrement. There are other dog parks in the County that have a separate area for small dogs. Since the Bocce Court is seldom used it could be converted to a small dog section. People really appreciate the dog park. Especially during the Covid19 crisis, it has become my place to socialize. It is my social life. A UCSC student, who was taking his courses from home, and who came regularly, was getting ready to go back to San Diego for the summer. He told me, "I'll be back to see my friends at the park." I'd also like parents who bring their children to the park to be mindful of letting their kids who don't have dogs into the dog park area. I know kids are bored now but chasing after dogs might put both the children and the dogs at risk.

After learning about the issue, GPN jumped into action by reaching out to the City Parks Department to see what could be done about the holes. Park supervisor Mike Godsy quickly responded to GPN and notified us that Parks will install a soil box and bucket to allow park users to top dress any holes or digging their dog may do. This will allow park visitors to have a much safer experience.



NEWS FLASH

Raneta called the City Parks Department and a pile of dirt was delivered to the Park. The pile has a shovel planted in it and dog owners have been filling in the holes. Thanks to the combined effort of concerned neighbors, GPN, and the Santa Cruz Parks Dept., the dog park will be a safer place for the neighborhood and their canine companions to enjoy.



Vision Statement

Grant Park Neighbors 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.

Adopt-A-Park Workday

Saturday, August 22nd at 9 AM: We will be weeding and top-dressing Grant Park while social distancing as part of our Adopt-A-Park. Please bring your own yard tools, face mask, gloves, and other protective gear as the City cannot provide any personal work equipment for this event.

Recreation Survey

Grant Park Neighbors asks for your input on our organization's scope of activity with six (6) short surveys.

Each survey has less than 15 questions, and will take no more than five (5) minutes to complete. Those that complete all six (6) surveys will be entered in a drawing for three \$25 gift cards; one from Dig Gardens, one from Marianne's Ice Cream, and one from the Habit Burger Grill.

Our 2nd survey concerns **Recreation** in the Grant Park Neighborhood, link: surveymonkey.com/r/V3Y866D

Our 1st survey as to **Senior Activities** is still alive and active at this link: surveymonkey.com/r/HYHTQ5V

More Information, details for events, news, and volunteering can be found on our website grantparkneighbors.org or contact us at grantpark95060@gmail.com

Ocean Street Rendering (taken from City Application Package)



908 Ocean St. Development

Rumored to be the largest residential project in Santa Cruz's history, the project at 908 Ocean Street is mixed-used development that is planned to host 408 residential units, with a ground floor of commercial tenants and a basement for parking. Community meetings began for this project on December 12, 2018.

The most recent meeting was held via Zoom on

June 24 (2020), but construction is not expected for at least another year (2021). Since late 2018, the design character of the project has dramatically changed while the construction footprint has grown; as such, **Grant Park Neighbors is planning to meet with City Planners to outline issues and concerns the community.** If you wish to participate in community activism regarding this project, please email grantpark95060@gmail.com with you desire to represent the neighborhood!

Concerns from the Neighbors

There is a significant collection of neighbors reaching out to GPN that would like to meet with the City to personally express concerns regarding the proposed project at 908 Ocean Street. At present, we have comments that largely fall into four categories:

- Traffic/Parking Impacts
- Service & Delivery Access/Operations for Commercial & High-Density Residential Uses
- Visual Impact of Project on Immediate Neighbors & Neighborhood
- Construction Noise, Obstructions, and Deterioration on Local Streets



May Avenue Rendering (taken from City Application Package)

After lengthy discussions at the last Zoom in the Park on June 27 and July 11, GPN now has a subcommittee for actions and communications in preparation, and if necessary reaction to the mixed-use development's impact on the immediate neighborhood. **More information about the project can be found at the City's website here:**

Active Planning Applications and Status: 908 Ocean Street

<https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-departments/planning-and-community-development/active-planning-applications-and-status/908-ocean-street>



May Avenue Elevation (taken from City Application Package)