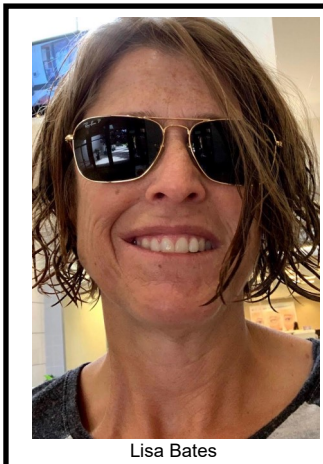




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## Interview with Lisa Bates



Lisa Bates

**GPN:** How long have you lived in Grant Park neighborhood?

**Lisa:** I've lived at my Emeline Ave, address for 22 years. I moved here from L.A. in 1992.

**GPN:** You've been a very active part of GPN. What's the reason you support GPN?

**Lisa:** I definitely feel connected. GPN has been willing to address the problems on Emeline and is getting responses from local government. I was feeling hopeless and sad about the blight in the neighborhood and feeling very vulnerable. With GPN I'm hoping for change.

**GPN:** What has it been like living on Emeline?

**Lisa:** In 2012-13 I took a sabbatical and lived in New Orleans for nearly a year. When I returned to Emeline the opiate crisis had hit. Addicts were walking past my house screaming. Traffic to the Methadone Clinic had increased; needles were thrown in my yard; there was human waste on the street. A woman with a knife threatened me in front of my house.

**GPN:** What about lately?

**Lisa:** Since Covid19 it has gotten a bit quieter. Less people going to the Emeline Complex. There are still homeless living under the freeway overpass. Last week at the Grant park dog park a man threatened to kill my dog when I asked him to stop screaming obscenities.

**GPN:** Have you taken any action?

**Lisa:** Recently, I went to the manager at the Methadone Clinic and told him about the guy who was screaming every day on his way to the clinic. The manager spoke to him and he has stopped screaming. After my car was stolen and several neighbors' parked cars were hit, I asked the authorities to deal with the traffic problems. They have promised to increase the visibility and add reflective stripping on Emeline. I'm still trying to get the police to arrest repeat offenders and to get the Health Service Agency to take more responsibility for the offenses of addicts being served at their clinics. The police seem overwhelmed. Bad behavior by drug addicts is being tolerated.

**GPN:** What would you like to see improved in and around the park?

**Lisa:** I'd like to see laws enforced against theft, more drug abuse treatment and housing. It may be time to reimagine the role of police and have some other agencies deal with addicts and homeless. Also, there's been talk for years about affordable housing but nothing is being built. We need to either have a guard for the park bathrooms or keep them closed. How about a zoom meeting with GPN and managers at Methadone, Syringe Services Program, and Health Service Agency to see if we can get a problem-solving task force?

**GPN:** Anything else you'd like to say to neighbors?

**Lisa:** I love my neighbors. I hope we can get things done to make it safer. I look forward to the end of Covid19 so I can get my students back to doing maintenance at the park.



**Work Day, October 14, 2019:** Lisa and her Life Skills students enjoy doing landscape maintenance and playing sports at the park, although this can be difficult without sanitary restrooms.



## 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 Rescheduled:

**The Adopt-A-Park Workday has been rescheduled for Saturday, Oct. 3 from 9 AM - 1 PM. Please bring your own yard tools, facemask, gloves, & other personal protective gear.**

## 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](https://surveymonkey.com/r/V3Y866D)

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

More Information, details for events, news, and volunteering can be found on our website [grantparkneighbors.org](https://grantparkneighbors.org) or contact us at [grantpark95060@gmail.com](mailto:grantpark95060@gmail.com)

## Emeline Ave. Improvements

Thanks to the help of Lisa Bates, who contacted Public Works in regards to improving traffic on Emeline Ave., the city has agreed to do the following:

- To increase lane visibility on Emeline, the cities streets team will install a new centerline with reflective markers from Fernside St to Grant St, as well as a dashed through intersection lane line through Button St.
- To increase visibility at the intersection of Emeline and Button, we plan on painting 20' of red curb in front of your house and in front of your neighbors across the street at 404 Emeline.



Red curb will be painted on the intersection of Emeline & Button.

There will be a two week public notice for the red curb. If there is no appeals the curb will be installed soon after the weeks. However, since the city is backed up with work, it may take a month to install the new lane from Fernside St. to Grant St..

## Interested in joining our neighborhood watch?

Grant Park Neighbors is looking to form a neighborhood watch for Grant Park! We are looking for fellow concerned neighbors who would be interested in protecting our neighborhood. We would love to hear any of your concerns, questions, or interest in being a part of developing the neighborhood watch. Feel free to email us at [grantpark95060@gmail.com](mailto:grantpark95060@gmail.com) for more information.



Top: Section of May Ave. before Slow Street implementation.



Bottom: May Ave. with Slow Streets signs.

## May Ave. Slow Streets Update

The Slow Street on May Ave. has been implemented with mixed reviews from the public. After receiving 11 survey responses from our members, GPN found that feelings towards the May Ave. Slow Streets are about equally divided. Out of the 11 responses, 6 of them claimed to like the Slow Streets while the other 5 disliked it. If you also have any feedback on the Slow Streets you would like to share, please feel free to email us at [grantpark95060@gmail.com](mailto:grantpark95060@gmail.com).