

Attending: Lynn Crawford, Ricardo Rodriguez, Debbie Wilhelm, Michael Timm, Betsy Abert, Annemarie Adsen, Jan Marsh, Rick Kaiser, Debby Pizur, Rob Vajagich, Rita Wiskowski, Jackie Benka, Don Lawson, Jody Johnson, Keith Schulenburg

Security:

A Jan. 10th TV news video showed a homemade cannon fired over Lake Michigan by its maker from the Grant Park beach. The South Milwaukee Police Department contacted the man after seeing the video with the result that he turned himself in; the normally \$315 citation was dropped as the man had no previous criminal record.

Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department welcomed 15 new deputies to the county for 2016.

The Friends of the Mill Pond would like to collaborate with the FOGP to plan a birding event in 2016. Rita Wiskowski will be in touch with our group.

Debby Pizur said a proposed Feb. 11th community forum will need to be rescheduled for after the Feb. 16th primary but before the general election in April. Of the three candidates running for the office of county executive, only one candidate (Steve Hogan from Franklin) replied. A suggestion was to send a questionnaire to the candidates and distribute answers to constituents. Another suggestion was to expand the forum to include candidates for county supervisor seeking to represent the 8th district, presently held by Supervisor Pat Jursik. We agreed to hold the forum after our March fundraiser, Pullin' o' the Green, and to hand out flyers advertising the forum at that event.

Pullin' o' the Green will be held Saturday, March 12th from 5 to 9 p.m. Doors open at 4:30. Food preparation and decoration will happen Friday, March 11th. Tickets will be offered for two seatings, with presales taking place at Parkway Floral and Mke City Sippers, cash or check only. Jody Johnson volunteered to manage ticket sales. Keith Schulenburg will manage kitchen duties the night of the dinner. Michael Timm volunteered to pick up catered food and beer. Debby Pizur requested free admittance parks passes from Supervisor Jursik. Members are encouraged to seek both raffle items and cash donations from organizations and businesses.

FOGP is collecting seasonal photo submissions for the 2017 Grant Park calendar project. Contact Pam Uhrig with your entries. (puhrig@hotmail.com)

The Oak Leaf Trail will not be plowed this winter in Grant. The contractor who recently repaved the trail will guarantee the work for 1 year if heavy equipment is *not* used on it.

The South Milwaukee Library hopes to visit the park this summer with young participants of their summer reading program for a 30 minute story time followed by a 15 minute activity such as a "mini hike." We will contact county's "Nature in the Parks" staff at Wehr Nature Center. Michael Timm suggested we produce a 1 page handout for participants with 3 nature facts, or some similar theme. Suitable locations might include pavilions at area 4, 5A and 7, so shelter is available in the event of rain, as well as restrooms. Wulff Lodge's new fire pit area was also considered.

FOGP was asked by Brian Morrison to join the South Milwaukee Community Business Association. It was agreed that we should join. A representative is needed to attend the meetings, and it was suggested that we take turns attending.

The Park People are featuring Grant Park as their park of the month, and have asked FOGP for updates to publish about our projects and goals for the year. Betsy will reply to them.

Keith thanked FOGP members for assisting the Salvation Army in December with bell ringing at the Walmart in South Milwaukee. We raised \$400 for SA projects such as their adult rehabilitation center, food pantry, after school activities, and motel accommodations for homeless individuals.

Lynn Crawford volunteered to be our treasurer.

Milwaukee Public Museum is bringing a BioBlitz to Grant Park June 11th & 12th. BioBlitz is a 24 hour inventory of all plant, tree, mineral, insect, animal, etc. in the park. Scientists will conduct the inventory, but the public is invited to observe and volunteer to assist. The blitz will be a blast!

The next meeting will be held on February 11th, with planning for the fundraiser being the main topic for discussion.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson