

Attending: Lynn Crawford, Betsy Abert, Annemarie Adsen, Rick Kaiser, Debby Pizur, Jackie Benka, Don Lawson, Jody Johnson, Keith Schulenburg, South Milwaukee Police Officer Nathan Seifert, Ethan Brown - Alliance for the Great Lakes, Debbie Wilhelm, Pam Uhrig

Treasurer's report: just over \$2,000 in our petty cash account at the Credit Union. It is thought that the Park People oversees in the vicinity of \$8K. We asked our treasurer to check on that.

Security: Drug paraphernalia was found in the park near 2 campsites in a wooded area, out of sight, and turned in to SMPD as evidence.

Other:

Alliance for the Great Lakes' representative Ethan Brown returned to follow up on *Revitalizing Our Ravines: Community Workshop 2016*, being planned for June. The City of South Milwaukee and Milwaukee County will participate and community involvement is encouraged. The Oak Creek watershed is an important watershed for southeast Wisconsin affecting water quality in Lake Michigan. Concurrently, (SEWRPC) Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission's Oak Creek Watershed project is going forward. We suggested getting a speaker from the UWM School of Freshwater Science, and suggested several topics we'd like addressed at the workshop:

1. Slope Erosion
2. Parking lot runoff
3. Stormwater 101, the basics,
4. Rain barrels
5. Stormwater Management and local impacts (Brookdale Ct. flooding in '08)
6. Impact of tree Removal on watershed (20-30 trees along creek near Fairview, Brookdale Ct. & Park Ave. for instance)

We talked about possible venues, and hope to encourage other groups, such as Friends of the Mill Pond, The Park People, Growing South Milwaukee, and Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society to participate. Betsy Abert, Lynn Crawford & Jan Marsh will assist with planning.

Milwaukee County Parks intern, Julie Bilek, asked us to complete a survey of our opinions on two new requested positions at parks: a Volunteer Services Coordinator, and a Development Officer. Responsibilities were listed for each position and questions regarding potential interactions with them were posed in survey form. Lynn Crawford will write up our responses.

County Supervisor Pat Jursik reports that Grant Park is not currently zoned as parkland, but rather residential multi-unit. Several FOGP members and Supervisor Jursik contacted Mayor Erik Brooks to request that the park's zoning be changed. Mayor Brooks said the matter has been referred to the Plan Commission, which will take up the issue at its next meeting, Feb. 29th. FOGP needs to draft a public statement for our

website and FaceBook page, send a copy to Mayor Brooks and the Plan Commission and send a representative to that meeting. Betsy Abert will draft a statement.

Good news for the currently closed Mill Pond access road! Jay Benkowski, owner of the parcel of land including the train trestle and portions of the access path to the warming house, has generously offered to donate his parcels to the county as parkland.

Another Eagle Scout project is proposed. A kiosk, similar to the two others recently installed, is proposed near the bend in the bike path across from the 7 Bridges parking lot. Our feeling is that these kiosks have not proven to be resistant to tampering by vandals, as evidenced by broken plexiglass and warped doors. Perhaps a better idea is to install park benches there. The scout will attend our upcoming meeting.

A proposed community forum has been postponed due to the candidates unavailability until after our Pullin' o' the Green* fundraiser. A calendar of events needs to be printed listing this year's projects to distribute at that event.

*Regarding the Pullin' O' the Green: Pam Uhrig explained the extra hurdles required this year to stage Pullin' O' the Green: Parks administration requires a liability insurance policy for \$1m for the night (\$630), or we're required to hire a licensed county employee to bartend for \$100/hr. We need a bartender for 4 hours. If we fail to sell \$400 worth of beer during that time, we owe the county the balance. We also owe a \$50 non-refundable application fee. Our profits vary widely from year to year, but a good year would only yield \$1300. Due to these cost constraints, and the major effort required, we voted, with some disappointment, to drop the fundraiser.

Steps on a highly eroding slope are needed to access a newer shallow ravine bridge near Wil-o-Way and Wulff lodges. Betsy reported that in a meeting onsite last year, Milwaukee County landscape architect Jim Ciha suggested that in keeping with the historical aspect of the park, limestone steps should be employed. Optimally both sides of the bridge should be stepped as soil runoff from existing steps on the east side has covered a good portion of the bridge deck and threatens to ruin same. But, there are no plans designed yet for that to happen. Should FOGP hire a landscape architect to design steps? Following that, could we seek donations or grant money to complete the project? We will discuss this further at a future meeting.

Would we also be able to facilitate Dog waste stations along the Oak Leaf Trail in the Park? Betsy will check costs on that.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 10th.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson

