

Attending: Betsy Abert, Debby Pizur, Jackie Benka, Jody Johnson, Debbie Wilhelm, Pam Uhrig, Rick Kaiser, James Davies, Tom Gardner, Annemarie Adsen, Alice Thompson, Lynn Meidam, Sierra Dawkins, Sue Hebner, Chris Marifke, Susan Gresser, Brian Morrison, Lynn Crawford

Security:

A suggestion was made by Tom Gardner to remedy an unsafe parking lot situation at the entrance to the Seven Bridges trail: why not install a sidewalk along the edge of the parking area, closest to the trailhead so that people waiting for others in their group can stand on the sidewalk, *instead of standing in the road* behind their vehicles. We will contact someone in parks administration about this idea.

Friends of Grant Park:

Proceeds from Pullin' o' the Green reported by our treasurer, Lynn Crawford: \$1173.67 in profits. Does not include 10% gratuity for caterer. Lynn will follow up on that. One problem we encountered was failure to plan for guests observing Lent. Our caterer was extremely helpful and prepared fish for those who requested it.

Alice Thompson, a wetland scientist in Wisconsin who attended the Root and Pike River restoration meetings, attended the recent SEWRPC Oak Creek Watershed meeting on March 8th. She gave a brief report and mentioned statistics related to a public survey, including comments from 108 participants, which can be viewed here: http://www.sewrpc.org/SEWRPCFiles/Environment/OakCreekWshedRestoration/OakCreekRestorationPlanPresentation_3-8-18.PDF

Chapters will be written to incorporate this data, and portions will be available for viewing by fall. No decisions have yet been reached about the future of the Mill Pond dam. That responsibility rests with the county and some private property owners.

Alice also mentioned that Grant Park is rated high for its' potential as a bumble bee reclamation zone. The endangered Rusty Patch Bumble Bee seeks ephemeral flowers needed by the queen bee to feed. She encouraged us to research ways to enhance the environment in the park to benefit the bees. If you think you see a rusty patch bee, send three (3) photos of the bee (head shot, top looking down, and side view) to www.bumblebeewatch.org. Organizers will identify your bee!

Two recent graduates of the UW-extension Master Gardners program, Chris Marifke and Susan Gresser, shared their enthusiasm about their assignment to adopt Will-O-Way as their community project. We suggested they contact Brian Russart about their ideas for improvements. Rick Kaiser offered the assistance of teen YouthWorks volunteers scheduled to work every Weds. and Thursday through the summer months.

As we receive donations, we need to establish a protocol for tax purposes. We will pick this issue up at our next meeting.

Brian Morrison hopes to enlist support from FOGP to locate or provide speakers to lead bi-weekly hikes he organizes called *Suburban Soles*. He hopes to compile a roster for our May meeting. Please contact him if you have ideas for speakers.

Trash is being dumped illegally in the park. Discarded furniture, lumber scraps, old kitchen cabinets find their way into the parking lot of Will-o-way and even the tennis court parking lot. We will pick up this issue again at our May meeting.

Ravine Signage: there is a technical issue with reproducing the background photo for our sign, so production is on hold until the bugs can be worked out having to do with DPI of photo.

Saturday, April 21st is our spring Beach Clean up. Jody will have a table with supplies at the beach parking lot from 9 am to noon.

Rick Kaiser asked if we would like to add to parks annual tree order, which would avoid a delivery charge if we ordered separately. Last year we ordered 17 trees. We agreed to place an order for 25 trees, with an average price of \$10 each, especially following the removal of so many ash trees in the park. Delivery is in September or October, with short notice. If we notify Friends of the Mill Pond, they may be interested in adding to the order. Let Rick know by the end of April.

Burdock Buster facilitator is needed for June 2nd. Pam Uhrig volunteered along with Lynn Crawford. Lynn will check into the "Garlic Mustard Pull-a-thon" idea from Southeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium.

Rita Wiskowski will present a Monarch Butterfly presentation at our June monthly meeting. We will advertise on website and facebook. Milkweed seed packets will be given to all attendees.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 10th at 6:30 pm at the Golf Course Clubhouse.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson, Temporary Chair and Secretary
www.fogp.org
Facebook: Friends of Grant Park (membership must be requested)