

Attending: Lynn Meidam, Betsy Abert, SMPD Officer Chris Rohde, Jan Marsh, Lynn Crawford, Rick Kaiser, Keith Schulenburg, Debby Pizur, Jody Johnson, Jackie Benka, Mary Labinski, August M. Ball

Park Watch / Security:

A Cudahy resident reported on our Facebook page having heard 6 gunshots around 6 am in the first week of April near Ramsey and Lake Drive; poaching was suspected. Another suggestion was that it might be official coyote removal, though Officer Rohde reported nothing has been done in that regard. Unrelated to this incident, but noteworthy is the South Milwaukee Yacht Club has permission to blow off a “flash bang” to scare off Canada Geese as needed.

SMPD Officer Rohde reported issuing a few tickets in the park, typical with warmer weather increasing traffic in the park. Other tickets were issued for OWI, being in park after closing, parking on Park Ave. after 11 pm. No major criminal calls in the area or in the park for the last month. The break-ins reported in the adjacent neighborhoods have stopped, with a suspect taken in. A homeless encampment behind the bowling alley was removed.

Friends of Grant Park:

August Ball introduced herself as the Friends Group Coordinator for Milwaukee County Parks. She asked us to complete a “Friends Group Survey” by the end of summer regarding marketing, social media, event planning, etc. With survey results, she plans to schedule workshops for friends groups sometime in September thru November, on topics such as fundraising, recruitment of volunteers, etc. Here’s the survey link: <https://www.cognitofirms.com/MilwaukeeCountyParks1/FriendsGroupMiniSeriesSurvey>. We asked August for an organizational chart for parks administration. She said a handbook is in the works, as well as contact information for other friends groups.

Debby Pizur shared a draft of the celebration plans for Wulff Lodge Centennial Anniversary. On June 24th, the Historical Society’s Garden Tour runs from 10am to 2 pm. At 3 pm we start our Anniversary celebration at Wulff Lodge, with notable dignitaries and a local historian speaking, and the municipal band playing. A campfire will be lit for roasting (food to be determined) and s’mores fixings will be for sale. To volunteer for this extravaganza, contact Debby Pizur or come to the next organization meeting on May 10th, 5:30 pm at the South Milwaukee Library.

Betsy Abert suggested we sponsor Julia Robson’s science based project, *Walk to Sustain our Great Lakes* with a \$100 donation. Julia is Assistant Milwaukee County Parks natural areas Coordinator. She will be hiking north along Lake Michigan for 360 miles to bring attention to the Great Lakes and groups working to preserve and protect water, crossing over to Green Bay, then north to Sturgeon Bay, then up to the Porcupine Mountains and Lake Superior. The group unanimously approved a donation of \$100.

Our treasurer, Lynn Crawford, reported a fee of \$194.82 charged by the Park People to be our fiduciary agent. FOGP is charged 8% of our balance as a yearly fee, which gives us 501(c)(3) status through the Park People. We had a discussion of the logic of having our funds managed by the Park People. Other friends groups have established themselves as their own 501(c)(3), but with that comes income tax responsibilities...

Jackie Benka wondered if we should have a Golf Course Clubhouse Open House as a feature of our monthly meeting. It would showcase some interior remodeling of the 125 year old Horace

N. Fowle home. This would benefit parks if potential rental customers toured the clubhouse. Refreshments could be served to the public.

Grant Park Unit Coordinator Jake Klingforth and the Grant Park Golf Course manager, Brian asked if we could plant some flowers around the clubhouse. Betsy suggested perennials, not annuals. Jackie Benka mentioned she had received a donation from the Ladies golf club for a memorial, and perhaps a flower bed with a memorial plaque would satisfy both parties.

Saturday, April 22nd is Beach Clean up day in Grant Park. We will work from 9 am to noon. Flyers are available, and were requested by a few members.

A message of thanks should be sent to the South Milwaukee boys track team for their awesome help picking up trash and cleaning steps/paths in the park. Lynn sent a card to a recent donor for her gift of \$75.00.

Two new dog waste stations have been purchased, but have not yet been installed adjacent to the Oak Leaf Trail.

Rick reported News this month from Jake Klingforth: funds needed to replace broken fencing & extensions are available. Work will be done by JobCorps. Very broken and dysfunctional railings on the stairways won't be done this year, due to lack of funding and issues with removal and replacement of old concrete post footings. Jake has no objection to painting the barriers along Lake Drive. More "wattle" barriers are needed by parking area 5, as you enter the woods. Wattle barriers are rustic fences made with dead branches and are used to discourage offtrail slope usage.. We will try to take this on as a project in mid to late May... No mention of signs from Jake.

Garlic Mustard **Weed-Out** sessions will be lead by:

April 29 - Betsy A.

May 6 - Jackie B. at tennis court lot, and Betsy A. at Wil-o-Way with OCHS

May 13th - Betsy A. & Jody J.

May 20th - Pam Uhrig

Burdock Busters session will be lead by:

June 3 - Betsy A., meeting at parking lot #2 (no dumping sign in lot)

June 10 - Betsy A.

Amending our own Sunday birdwalks from April 30th to May 28th, will be the South Milwaukee Library sponsored walk to be held on Saturday, May 20th at 9 am. To register: emily.weiss@mcfls.org Meet at area 5 parking lot.

The City of South Milwaukee's Engineer has applied for a grant to address issues of city runoff in the ravines of Grant Park. Also, trapped trash and boulders are blocking culverts after storms, resulting in backups of the runoff. Jake K. has suggested this will be fixed soon with cleanout and grates.

We had hoped to erect a display featuring our Weedout activities including invasive species along with bird migration in the Library glass case this May, but time got the better of us. Next year?

We have some photos offered for the upcoming calendar.

South Milwaukee Community Night Out will be on Thursday, Aug. 16th from 5:30 - 9 pm at the South Milwaukee Police Department. Tentative volunteers for tabling at this community event are Jan Marsh, Jackie Benka, Jody Johnson, and Lynn Crawford.

Our next meeting is May 11th.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson