

Attending: Betsy Abert, Debby Pizur, Jackie Benka, Jody Johnson, Pam Uhrig, Jan Marsh, Rick Kaiser, James Davies, Tom Gardner, Lynn Crawford, South Milwaukee Police Officer Joseph Benson, Sue Hill, Sean Kelly, Tomas Goldsmith, Brian Morrison

South Milwaukee Police Officer Benson announced a Safety Expo on June 9th held in the police department conference room covering home security measures. He reported an incident of an elderly resident driving on the golf course likely due to dementia issues. He noted that county deputies were increasing their patrols in the park. One report of vandalism was mentioned: a broken window at Wulff Lodge.

Jackie Benka asked if we ought to enlarge the signs at the park's entrance about park closing hours. Officer Benson said it could possibly help, but he acknowledged that some people will always say they didn't know regardless of the sign. [*note: a new park hours sign has been posted in the parking lot next to the tennis court*] He commented that the new chief of police for South Milwaukee, William Jessup, is enthusiastic about community policing.

Rick Kaiser said YouthWorks volunteers will begin work in the park June 13th, from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, with an hour for lunch. Rick asked for project suggestions. We suggested removing trash on the beach, covering social trails with brush trimmings, dismantling forts, excavating and sweeping the path at Wulff Lodge, and sweeping the steps in the ravine.

Tomas Goldsmith introduced himself as owner of Volley Life, a service company that would be running beach volleyball at Grant Park Beach. He will be offering team leagues beginning June 3rd, Sundays and Fridays. Various camps and tournaments will be scheduled. He will promote and market these events and FOGP will assist as we are able via Facebook and website.

Treasurer's report from Lynn Crawford:  
\$8,569.33 at Guardian Credit Union  
\$8,762.19 at The Park People  
\$17,331.52 total

It was decided that a discussion about donation protocol would happen in a separate meeting between Annemarie Adsen, Jackie Benka and Lynn Crawford.

Brian Morrison rolled out his program *Suburban Soles* guided nature walks: a 1 1/2 mile walk through Grant Park starting at 10 am on the corner of 6th & Mill Rd. on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Guest facilitators are:

- June 10th: **Brian Russart**, Milwaukee County Parks Natural Areas Coordinator
- June 24th: **Sierra Dawkins**, Eastern region botanist
- July 8th: **Nels Munson**, South Milwaukee historian
- July 22nd: **Brooke Gilley**, naturalist from Wehr Nature Center
- Aug. 12th: **Jan Marsh**, EPA Watershed expert; and Laura Herrick, SEWRPC chief environmental engineer

- Aug. 26th: **Craig Helker**, water resource biologist with Wisconsin DNR
- Sept. 9th: **Alan Bunde**, president of Wisconsin Mycological Society (mushrooms)
- Sept. 23rd: **Bryce Ruddock**, co-author of *Integrated Forest Gardening: the Complete Guide to Polyculture and Plant Guilds in Permaculture Systems*

FOGP is proud to co-sponsor Suburban Soles and we voted to donate \$100 to Brian Morrison to offset the cost of the program's printing and fees; and an additional \$100 to the county's natural areas program in appreciation for Brian Russart donating his time.

Grant Park has a new unit coordinator, Sean Kelly. Sean ran through his "to do" list, as well as his "hope to do" list. He informed us that the bridge is complete in the 7 Bridges ravine, and that Job Corps. workers will be coming to install the railing along the upper trail of the ravine. He submitted a request for a slab to be installed for the beer garden trailers, to be made of lannon stone. He says the Oak Leaf Parkway will be repaved this summer between Chicago Ave. and the train trestle. He invited FOGP to plant flowers again in the flower boxes: at area 7-8, 5a, and 4 pavilion. Jackie Benka asked what he would recommend to do to improve the appearance of the rusty guard rails immediately north of the park's main entrance along Lake Drive. He suggested painting them silver as the quickest solution.

Debbie Pizur suggested we work on creating a Grant Park History calendar for 2019 as a fundraiser. We all agreed. Volunteers are needed to research and locate photographs. Contact either Debbie Pizur (on history) or Sue Hebner (regarding reproduction of photographs).

James Davies volunteered to research legal aspects of placing security cameras within the park, especially with regard to illegal dumping of construction trash and tires. This subject was deferred to the next meeting.

FOGP will provide amusements for the Traveling Beer Garden on Thursdays, June 28th, July 5th and 12th from 5 - 8 pm. A quiz show called *Invasive Jeopardy!* and a scavenger hunt will be featured. Winners will receive a token prize (milkweed seed packets) or a certificate of some sort. On the spur of the moment, we decided to create a t-shirt to sell with wording to the effect of Traveling Beer Gardener or Master Beer Gardener. Debbie Pizur volunteered to work on a design.

Our June 14th meeting will begin earlier than usual, at 6 pm in the golf course clubhouse. This is to allow more time for our business meeting before our speaker, Rita Wiskowski, begins her program on Monarch Butterflies at 7 pm. The program is open to the public and we will serve beverages (Jody has a gallon of apple cider). Jody will create a flyer.

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