

Attending: Lynn Meidam, Betsy Abert, SMPD Officer Tory Shields, Jan Marsh, Lynn Crawford, Debby Pizur, Jody Johnson, Jackie Benka, Pam Uhrig, Deb Wilhelm

Park Watch / Security:

Officer Tory Shields informed us that deterrence patrols have increased to 3 times per day thru the park. Graffiti was found at the main beach area, but was not considered to be associated with any gang activity. A citizen reporting an unlawful incident to police was very nearly cited for disorderly conduct himself when he became physically involved with the person he was reporting. Please report incidents, but don't get involved; let the police do their job. Officer Shields reminded us of a city-wide block watch meeting at 6:30 pm on June 1st at City Hall in the Common Council Chambers; and Coffee With a Cop on June 15th in the gazebo behind the Grobschmidt Senior Center.

There were no reports of mountain lions in the area, according to the DNR conservation warden.

Friends of Grant Park:

Treasurer's report: \$9,558.97 in our Park People account; \$3,896.12 in our Guardian Credit Union account. Total: \$13,455.09. A clarification was noted: Park People charges us an 8% administrative fee on *incoming* donations, not on our balance.

South Milwaukee Community & Business Association annual dues are paid thru October. Jan Marsh has volunteered to donate the dues again this year. Pam Uhrig will attend the May meeting. Please see Jody to volunteer to attend future meetings so that we can all participate.

Wulff Lodge Centennial Anniversary update: The South Milwaukee Municipal Band will play from 4 - 5 pm, playing songs from the '20s. The Boy Scouts are on board, too, and will conduct a flag retirement ceremony. Additional work days are needed to beautify the lodge and grounds, and are planned for the afternoon of May 20th, 22nd and June 3rd. Lend a hand if you can!

Debbie Pizur contacted YouthWorks, and their group of volunteer students will work in the park every Wednesday starting the 2nd week in June, 9:30 am to 3 pm. Rick Kaiser volunteered to supervise in June and Lynn Crawford in July. Work projects include pulling garlic mustard; litter; beach cleanup; burdock & buckthorn removal. We will need one more volunteer to supervise the first two weeks of August. See Debbie Pizur or Jody to volunteer.

We discussed signs to improve the park. A "Wulff Lodge" sign; "Friends of Grant Park Work Project"; "Grant Park Main Entrance, next left". We voted unanimously to apply to Parks administration for a matching grant for new signs.

One of our members had a suggestion for a useful handout to always have on hand:

Myth vs. Fact with subjects like Woodland Wild Flowers; Litter; Staying on paths; Keeping Dogs on leash. Jan Marsh volunteered to collaborate with Annemarie Adsen and compose the text. It would be a great addition for our Wulff Lodge event in June.

A Grant Park Open "Club" house is planned for Thursday, Sept. 14th, from 6 - 8 pm, taking the place of our regular meeting. This would allow the public to see the remodeled amenities for future rental consideration. Perhaps our local historian, Nels Monson, would be available to speak.

Weed-Out schedule:

- Betsy, Jody & Pam will work May 13th
- Pam & Lynn on May 20th
- Betsy's Burdock Busters 9 am on June 3, using the burdock spade

Birdwatching on Sundays in May, meeting at the area 7 parking lot; South Milwaukee Library will have a bird walk on May 20th, preregistration required.

Betsy made a motion, approved unanimously, to pay \$100 to the middle school for native plants received. Pam will determine who to make payment to at the school district.

We received an email report from Jake Klingforth:

We are installing the dog waste stations tomorrow. I placed the order from Bliffert Lumber for the fence at 7 bridges. Still no installation date. We have been busy cutting grass and everything that goes along with that.

Would the friends group like to donate flowers for our new flower boxes?

I also proposed to install some permanent benches overlooking the lake where the old picnic area 2 used to be.

Our bulletin board in the clubhouse has been removed permanently, we think. Flyers can be posted on the counter, but we may need to purchase a rack to keep them upright, and more visible.

It was a unanimous vote to plant a tree to honor and thank Don Lawson for his years of support and enthusiasm for the park and the Friends of Grant Park, as an organization that he helped to form. A small engraved plaque will note his years of service.

We will absolutely help plant flowers in flower boxes mentioned by Jake. Jackie Benka had previously received a \$700 memorial donation from the women's golf league to be used for golf course landscape improvement, so this is a good use of those funds. We discussed planting perennials such as Rudbeckia (Black Eyed Susans), and perhaps something that blooms in early summer. Send Jackie your suggestions.

Our next meeting is June 8th .

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson