

Attending: Dean Chapman, Gene Johansen, Kathleen Arch, Jackie Benka, Rick Kaiser, Jan Marsh, Keith Schulenberg, Jody Johnson, Betsy Abert, Kathy Slamka, Rob Vajagich

We received a pre-arranged conference call from Laura Schloesser, Chief of External Affairs and Administration at County Parks Dept. Laura wanted to explain why the \$75,000 portion of Dr. Julie Kinzleman's grant to improve water quality at Grant Park Beach contained elements the county has decided not to implement (such as installing dunes to block runoff from the parking lot). Laura asked FOGP if we were willing to assume maintenance of a rain garden on the south side of the parking lot between the creek and lot, including spring and summer weeding. The county doesn't want to add more infrastructure if it can't be maintained. They would like installation by September. Mobimats will also be purchased for disability access to the beach. We agreed to discuss the proposals and talk about it at the upcoming June 12 meeting.

Additionally, Laura shared news of a potential vendor for the concession stand at Grant Park beach. A 5 year agreement with a 5 year extension is proposed, along with capital investment to improve the building and food service, create volleyball courts, and offer paddle boards and aquatic toys for rent. A larger menu would be offered. All seemed in agreement that getting the concession stand going with a well-known proprietor will significantly improve the quality of experience at the beach.

A concerned neighbor of the park and the South Milwaukee Yacht Club requested our assistance with discussing the viability of a large lighted directional sign at the club's harbor entrance out above the water mounted on an island formed by a submerged tank. We discussed it and how it likely doesn't meet dark sky requirements, that maritime guidelines allow for red and green directional buoys, and that any signage would require a coastal waterways permit. But, ultimately we agreed that this is one thing we don't feel educated or willing enough to take on as a group issue.

Discussion of the Cudahy Sportsmen's Club process includes updates from Jody, Rick and Betsy; new information had been gathered regarding impacts of lead to diving ducks, referencing recent reports from DNR biologists and UWM Water Dept. staff. Rick explained that DNR staff will refer all questions in the future to warden Kevin Mickleberg. We understand that Parks Director John Dargle received our 2nd letter expressing a desire that we be kept in the loop regarding any decisions on the Gun Club. It has been communicated to us that he is waiting to meet with DNR legal and County corporate counsel, though we are not aware if the meeting has taken place. Dargle has promised a written response to our letter.

It was reported that the Cudahy Sportsmen's Club conducted a Grant Park Beach cleanup on April 26th, and that they hauled all refuse including wadding and tires from the park in a private trash hauler. Most agreed that this was a gratifying move on the part of the club, and that we might write a message of thanks to them. *Note: At the time of this writing on 6/4, and following a beach cleanup done in conjunction with the Briggs and Stratton workday, wadding was again found in good amounts, and likely due to heavier than usual east winds.*

Briggs and Stratton volunteers are scheduled to work in Grant Park on May 17th to dig post holes and pour concrete footings preparatory to a new bluff top fence installation as well as doing park cleanup. A fence of pressure treated pine will be erected along southern upper ridge of Seven Bridges ravine following the foot path there. Betsy will also put volunteers to work to complete planting on our 2013 slope restoration project using native plants.

Keith agreed to meet with Chris Ponteri from Longrun Athletics to determine a course for the Lake Michigan trail marathon scheduled to go through the park this August. Our concern has been that the trails be used carefully, and that runners are monitored so that shortcuts through potentially sensitive natural areas be forbidden. We have agreed to provide volunteers for this run in return for a donation from the organizers.

We reminded the group that WeedOuts were on schedule for Saturdays in the month of May. Garlic mustard had, thus far, not shown much growth given the colder temps resulting in the first session's cancellation.

Betsy raised the issue of dog waste in the park suggesting we fund waste dispensers. It came to her attention during the winter that numerous dog walkers are simply allowing their dogs to run off leash and defecate where they ran in the woods. This becomes an issue for those who will be working weed outs. She will discuss with unit coordinator Matt Collins and get back to the group.

Betsy also spoke of her talk with Parks Marketing Director, Jeff Baudry, about having a symphony quartet play at Grant Park sometime this summer. His response was that he didn't think there was enough interest to draw 300 people.

We read through suggested improvements for next year's Pullin' o' the Green Irish party:

- Too much beer. Next year 1/4 bbl of amber, 1/4 bbl of stout
- Short on Corned Beef entree (order 110 next year)
- Offer combination plate as a 4th menu option
- Get 501(c)(3) number from Park People for bakery and butter purchase. GFS also asked for 501(c)(3)
- Play up "fun" element when recruiting the National Honor Society
- Expand volunteer base and organize: Kelly Sr. Center, Marquette U., Divine Mercy Parish, Boy Scout Troops, Girl Scout Troops, National Honor Society, Cudahy Sportsmen't Club
- Sell more tickets next year (assume some no shows; seat at bar if necessary 70 tickets per seating (not 60)
- Try Ace Hardware as ticket vendor
- Consider selling bar tickets only (sit & listen & drink, no food)
- Consider offering Garlic Mustard Pickers CD's for sale at ticket vendors
- Ask guests how they heard of our event
- Approx. 10% walk in tickets sold
- FOGP name tags or T-shirts "I am a Friend of Grant Park"

- Raffle prizes should be mentioned on flyer
- 8½" x 11" flyers... more of these, around town
- Consider Wil-o-Way Grant as future venue (remodeled 2014)
- List raffle items at vendors, sell raffle tickets at vendors
- Bartenders suggestions: 3 cases of Root Beer or 2 liter bottles instead of cans
- Use same quantity of beer cups next year. Just right.

The basketball net at Wil-o-way east of the court is broken.

We discussed the logistics of hosting movies at Grant Park beach, even though we decided against doing it this year given time and volunteer constraints. Even as our new mayor would like to see this at the Park, we had to decide and used the report from the individual who ran the movies at South Milwaukee Farmer's Market last year and reported that it was expensive and too time consuming for a single person to run. The county owns a screen and projector, stored at LaFollete Park, and it is available, but parks personnel are needed to operate it.

Our next meeting is June 12th.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson