

Attending: Jackie Benka, Mike Ollmann, Zach Ollman, Denise Chojnacki, Keith Schulenburg, Rick Kaiser, Kathleen Patron, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Deputy Steve Geason, Rob Vajagich, Jody Johnson, Jan Marsh

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Regarding park security issues, some graffiti was removed from the steps at Seven Bridges, and a complaint was made that shots were fired between 2 and 4 a.m. somewhere along the shoreline between the Seven Bridges trail and Grant Park beach. This is not duck hunting, which is allowed after 6 a.m., but must be 150' offshore. And there was more mischief in the parking lot at the beach, with cars doing donuts there. We were surprised to hear that individuals doing this are typically not from South Milwaukee but more likely to be from the south side of Milwaukee or even from Chicago.

Grant Park's unit coordinator, Matt Collins, is determined to get security cameras installed to prevent further vandalism to Wulff Lodge and has already secured estimates from vendors.

Matt also met with SMPD, Mayor Eric Brooks and Parks department to discuss logistics for July 4th festivities in the park. Certain areas of the park have been newly planted with native trees, which will have to be off limits to the public. Boy Scout Troop 252 regularly volunteers to clean up the park the day after the fireworks.

Zachary Ollman, another aspiring Eagle Scout from Troop 252, presented his plans to build a new kiosk for the park, to be erected along the Oak Leaf Trail across the street from the 18th tee, next to a bike tree(?) He estimated the cost to be \$1,200, and is seeking funding from the Friends of Grant Park. We agreed to donate \$400. His deadline is to have it completed and installed by the end of summer.

Chris Ponterri, from LongRun Athletics, LLC, met with Keith Schulenburg to follow the route planned for the Lakefront Marathon. The run is scheduled for August 31st, although registration details are not yet available. According to Keith, runners will be warned to stay on the trail. Grant Park would be roughly the middle of the course which would loop through the park and then return toward Milwaukee. Chris hopes to have 2 aid stations for runners, one at Wil-o-way and one at the beach area. If we volunteer to work the aid stations, LRA will donate \$500. The route follows the Oak Leaf trail down to Grant Park beach, then follows the beach north toward the Seven Bridges trail, up the trail towards Wil-o-Way. We need to decide by our July meeting so we can organize volunteers for the Labor Day weekend run.

As volunteers for an event like this, we decided to get some t-shirts printed to identify ourselves for the runners. We will likely have a dozen shirts printed with "I am a Friend of Grant Park", and perhaps the Park People logo somewhere. Jody will get an estimate for printing costs.

We met Kathleen Patrone, from Common Ground, WI. She introduced herself and her organization which seeks to be the citizen's voice; identifying community problems and issues needing attention; working with the leaders of church groups, non-profits, friends groups, etc., and teaching them how to navigate in a political arena to realize those goals. Common Ground's Fair Play initiative addresses the proposed new Bradley Center arena. If public funds are used to build a new arena, then at least \$150 million of these funds must be used to improve

Milwaukee County public schools, athletic facilities and recreational spaces. More information about Common Ground can be found at commongroundwi.org.

Our group is in need of a larger pool of volunteers. If everyone were to bring 3 volunteer pool ideas to our next meeting, we can begin to build a larger base. We will send a request to our e-mail list for ideas as well.

Milwaukee Job Corps. is building the fence by the Seven Bridges ravine. The fence posts are in. The workers will come 1 day each week for the next 2 weeks. Milwaukee Job Corps works to provide on-the-job training for at risk youth, doing projects and learning job skills that will assist them to find future jobs.

Dames Rocket is growing wildly in Grant Park, and is out of control, according to Betsy Abert. Identifiable as a 4 petal purple flower, with a serrated edge on the leaves, you should be aware of a similar looking wood phlox that has smooth edged leaves and 5 petal flowers.

Rick Kaiser will call Guy Smith from County Parks to ask about conclusions from the meeting with DNR legal and Milwaukee County corporate counsel regarding the Cudahy Sportsmen's Club. An article in Wisconsin Outdoor News (May 30, 2014) listed the effects on wildlife of ingesting lead, with the number of deaths attributed to lead poisoning for 37 bird species other than waterfowl.

Our next meeting is Thursday, July 10th.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson