

Attending: Rick Kaiser, Milwaukee County Parks Director John Dargle, Milwaukee County Parks Chief of Administration and External Affairs Laura Schloesser, South Milwaukee Public Health Administrator Jackie Ove, Debby Pizur, Grant Park Unit Coordinator Matt Collins, Mykki Bordeau, Jon Dannecker, Lynn Crawford, Chris Ponterri, Jody Johnson, Don Lawson, Keith Schulenburg, Betsy Abert, Jan Marsh, South Milwaukee Police Inspector Michael Hill

Mike Hill brought a copy of the police reports for the last three months, though had to depart prior to making a verbal report. Nothing of note to report. However, Matt Collins asked our group to assist with vandalism prevention at both the Wulff Lodge and Area 5A pavilion. He researched cameras that could be installed at Wil-o-way at a cost of \$40 to \$50 per camera suggesting an available package at Menards, which would require an HDMI computer screen to view the footage. Installation would be done by the county's electricians pending availability. When the DVR records vandalism, a flash drive is used to grab the footage to share with the police and schools. Asked if the Seven Bridges parking lot could also get cameras, Matt stated that there is no power source there. We voted to purchase cameras for Wulff Lodge and Pavilion 5A, but asked Matt to look for a more powerful DVR/camera package even if the cost was a bit more. Facial recognition of vandals is necessary to make any arrests.

Laura Schloesser updated us on Dr. Julie Kinzleman's grant for improvements to Grant Park beach. A delay in finalizing the design, along with questions from the county's landscape architects and Jim Keegan has caused concern that we would lose the grant money if quick action is not taken. The project needs to be sustainable for the county. The arrangement is for the county to outlay costs for the project, then get reimbursed. County design staff is supportive of a rain garden located to the south of the beach parking lot and north of the Creek, but is not in favor of the dune construction and restoration between the lot and lakefront to the east because of visual interference and maintenance issues. Project funding is allocated on the condition of being used by Sept. 30, 2014.

Ms Schloesser also informed us that Area 2 erosion will be dealt with with a grant from FEMA. The design has been accepted by the state. Installation will take place in October, 2014.

The RFP for the food and beverage concession at the beach is still in negotiation stage. The Ferchoff family is interested in improving the concession area with volleyball courts, and has requested a liquor license which was accepted by the City of South Milwaukee.

A Friends of the Mill Pond painting and electrical project has been approved for the Mill Pond warming house. They will also be asked to assist with cost of security cameras there.

Schloesser invited us to participate in county parks Public Input Sessions on July 27, 29, and 30. These sessions provide an opportunity to give and get feedback at three parks: Kosciuszko, Dineen and Boerner. Parks' administration will submit their strategic plan July 22nd, posted on parks' website. County supervisors will have copies. The county is seeking approval for the 5 year plan by the end of September. The plan addresses issues of deferred maintenance, workforce, processes and policies. The county parks budget is due for 2015.

Chris Ponterri from LongRun Athletics, LLC, explained the Lake Michigan Trail Marathon he has planned for Labor Day Sunday, Aug. 31st, which includes loops through Grant Park. Open to a total of 1,200 runners, 700 have signed up so far. Approximately 12% of registrants are from out of town. Events include marathon, 1/2 marathon, and 50k. More information can be found on

their website www.lakemichiganmarathon.com. Our group has been asked to provide a team of 5 people at an aid station. We have 3 volunteers (Betsy, Jan M., Debby) for a shift from 7 - 10 a.m., and 1 volunteer (Jody) working 10 a.m. til 1 p.m. We will need two more early shifters, and 4 more 10-1 shifters. LongRun Athletics will make a donation to Friends of Grant Park for our assistance.

We talked of needing to grow our pool of volunteers! Suggested groups to approach included Lions Leo group, SM High School's National Honor Society and Ecology Club, Girl Scout Troops, Divine Mercy Church Confirmation class, Cudahy High School students completing community service requirement; businesses such as Starbucks, Patrick Cudahy, Aurora Health Care, Cooper Power Systems. House of Corrections work crews did work at Warnimont and Bender park; that was suggested as a possibility. Kind Care accepts community service work for people with mild cognitive disabilities. For example, we could ask a business or church group to adopt a rain garden.

Jon Dannecker from Modern Woodmen financial addressed our group. The company offered to create an activity in the park for its employees. It might take the form of a \$500 community improvement project. The only requirement is that Modern Woodmen supplies the volunteers (and the funding) to do it. Matt suggested some natural areas signage in the park as an idea. Another idea floated for this was to erect a Little Free Library in the park, but Matt raised concern about lack of a monitor/maintenance etc.

Parks Director John Dargle responded to our questions about the status of our concerns over the Cudahy Sportsmen's Club. Director Dargle said he has been working with corporate counsel attorney Paul Kuglitch, who agreed with our concerns, and that they will pursue closing down the gun club, citing issues of lead shot contamination, wadding and violations of various federal laws. A meeting with the club is scheduled for July 16th. He further said that the county is resolved to work cooperatively to clean up the site, acknowledged there was a bond that had been posted that could be used to cover costs involved, and is willing to help the club find a new location.

We considered an idea to hold a recycling event as a fund raiser. Debby Pizur had been in touch with CasBro CPR, a local recycling agency. They recycle used electronics and aluminum; we would receive a percentage of the value of the collected material. We agreed to pursue this. More information will follow as we set a date.

The next meeting will be held on Aug. 14.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson