

Grant Park Watch / Friends of Grant Park Minutes July 14, 2016

Attending: Lynn Meidam, Jody Johnson, Debby Pizur, Mike Moeller, Becky Gresser, Gene Johansen, Susan Gresser, Sue Hebner, Sue Hibben, South Milwaukee Police Officers Kadi Walvsay and Chris Rohde, Keith Schulenburg, Lynn Crawford, Milwaukee County Supervisor David Sartori, Pam Uhrig, Jackie Benka, James Hogden, Don Lawson, Brian Morrison

We opened our meeting with a discussion of the attempted sexual assault on July 12th in Grant Park. The perpetrator is described as being a 350 lb. Hispanic male with scabs on both shins. The victim was exiting the park from the beach via Hawthorn Ave., when she was hit from behind. She struggled and escaped with injuries into a passing car that slowed to assist. A couple concerned neighbors voiced opinions that the park is neglecting safety issues in favor of upgrades to bike paths and tennis courts. It was requested of County Supervisor Sartori to reprioritize and allocate more funds for park safety such as trimming back underbrush and replacing burned out streetlights.

Also of recent concern is a series of garage break-ins on Fairview Ave. Neighbors are not aware of activity on their own blocks. The recent development of a Block watch in the Park, Oak and Lake Drive areas was mentioned.

It was reported that the individual known for scrawling religious graffiti on portions of the bike path called police to report harassment by an individual calling the tagger to end to his graffiti.

No incidents were reported around the month long beer garden. And there have been no issues reported by Ferch's at Grant Park beach.

The FOGP 2017 calendar is nearly completed. We'll print cards for local businesses to display announcing the availability of the calendar. Parkway Floral will sell the calendars for us.

The garden area at Wulff Lodge is ready for planting. Donated plants are needed (non-invasive or native). Care should be taken attempting transplants at this time of year due to heat, drought, etc.

Nature walks in Grant Park led by an FoGP member have been held on three occasions. Schlitz Audubon and the South Milwaukee Library co-sponsored events that were well attended.

Milwaukee County landscape architect Jim Ciha has designed a plan for steps and pillars or seat walls to complement the new bridge near Wulff Lodge. He will meet with interested members of FOGP on site to discuss.

Milwaukee County Natural Areas team has completed mapping the social footpaths in Grant Park using GPS coordinates. These maps will be used to estimate cost of repairs, and to seek grant funding to address.

Should FOGP reconsider hosting Pullin' o' the Green in 2017? Betsy Abert raised the idea and suggested we give it some thought. The City of Milwaukee's St. Pat's parade is Sat., March 11th. It was suggested that we give some thought to holding the event at Pat's Oak Manor rather than the Clubhouse.

FOGP will have a table at Evening on the Avenue in South Milwaukee Thursday, July 28. We will promote membership, sell tote bags, CD's, and perhaps calendars if they are completed.

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We voted to join the Community and Downtown Business Association that sponsors the event. Jan Marsh offered to donate the fee (\$50) and submit our application for membership.

A neighbor of Grant Park asked if there was surveillance in the park, and if there was a census of park users. He was concerned about increased activity around Park Ave. and Lake Drive. Betsy Abert suggested we draft a follow up letter to South Milwaukee Engineer Kyle Vandercar requesting replacement of the flashing red stop light at the intersection. Perhaps we could pursue some grant funding.

The Park People website now has a donation button for local park friends groups such as FOGP. Users must enter a donation amount and select a park to receive it. We hope to advertise this convenience via kiosks in the park.

The next meeting will be held on August 11th.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson