

Attending: Betsy Abert, SMPD Officer Tory Shields, Rick Kaiser, Keith Schulenburg, Debby Pizur, Jody Johnson, Jackie Benka, Debra Haley, Sue Hibben, Jeff Johnson

Park Watch / Security:

Officer Shields informed us that parking violations are on the rise in the park, issued at the discretion of the officer. One instance of disorderly conduct was reported: a male streaker who was arrested by the county Sheriff's department deputy. A vehicle was stolen in Grant Park and later discovered in Cudahy with keys in the ignition.

Officer Shields repeated a request for additional park hours signs to be posted at all gated entrances. Could they be larger than the posted version (8" x 12")? We will send a letter to parks administration about this. Also, is it possible to add a gate to area 7, 8 & 9 entrance? Will-o-way access complicates this when rentals can use the building until midnight.

Treasurer's report:

Guardian Credit Union balance \$3,898.25

(Betsy was reimbursed \$271 on July 20 for Wulff garden and park planter expenses)

Park People balance \$9,737.09

(2 recent \$100 donation deposits less \$10.94 fees for PayPal and Park People fees.
\$200 - 21.88=\$178.12)

Subtotal \$13,635.34

Less \$184.85 paid to Forrest Keeling Nursery

Total \$13,450.49

Also, Debby Pizur received a \$52.57 check from Boy Scout Troop 252 for concession sales at the Wulff Lodge anniversary event.

Our partnerships with two different volunteer entities were a big success this summer. We interacted with Youthworks middle school volunteers directly in the removal of burdock, yard work, and trails cleaning at Wulff Lodge. Nature Conservancy/ La Causa-sponsored high school volunteers partnered with the Parks Natural Areas team in planting trees from the Wulff Lodge Centennial event, mapping invasive species throughout the park, and reusing brush from invasives eradication to help block social trails currently causing erosion.

(See <https://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/wisconsin/newsroom/internships-give-young-people-skills-and-a-taste-of-environmental-careers.xml>)

Great progress was made, and we appreciated their excellent work ethic.

Weed Out will take place on the last Saturday in September and first in October: 9/30 & 10/7. We need to build volunteer groups for Weed-Out projects in September and October. We could use 10 volunteers each weekend. We will consult with Natural Areas manager Brian Russart as to prioritizing species for removal; buckthorn is our usual autumn target, though newly identified problem species include Japanese Tree Lilac and Winged Euonymous (Burning Bush.) Several potential pools of volunteers were listed to contact: schools, honor societies, track teams, parishes and congregations, community colleges, and businesses. And, we need volunteers from FOGP to facilitate. Make a list of projects!

Recycling is the right thing to do, and we should see to it that containers are available and emptied periodically. Keith will ask Jake Klingforth for location and status of recycling containers.

Community Night Out is on Weds., Aug. 16th at the SM Police Dept. Jody will set up the FOGP table and staff. Betsy volunteered to assist.

The Lake Michigan Trail Marathon returns on Sunday, Sept. 3rd. Volunteers are needed to staff a hydration table near the clubhouse. As of 8/19, we still need volunteers for mid-morning 9:30 am - 11 am. You can volunteer online for any station at <http://milwaukee marathon inc. volunteer local. com/ volunteer/?id=23631> or call Pam Uhrig at (414) 764-0461.

We will apply for matching funds from Parks for *Save the Ravines* signage we are producing. Estimates are \$1500 per sign with two needed, plus \$1100 for concrete slabs which are preferred by the county. With matching funding, FOGP would pay \$2,830. Parks accepts applications for matching funds in March and August. Other projects could qualify. We should tap into this resource more often.

We tabled a review of our priority list until the next meeting.

We will host an open house for the renovation-in-process Horace Fowle Homestead (Golf Course Clubhouse) during our November monthly meeting. We discussed the numerous repairs needed throughout the park, notably at the Clubhouse, on bridges in the ravines, and along the steps to the ravines, and would like to put out requests for help from contractors around these projects given the lack of current Parks construction availability.

We may be getting a newer kiosk at the main entrance to 7 Bridges trail according to Jake K. An underutilized kiosk at Rawson Woods Park may be relocated to Grant Park, replacing the current derelict kiosk.

Featuring a number of food sampling stations, live music, and walks on the beach, the Seven Bridges BBQ, sponsored by Newaukee, is Wednesday, Aug. 30th from 6-9 pm. Tickets can be purchased at newaukee.com. This is an event that may introduce young urban professionals to our local gem. While this is not a project of ours, a portion of the proceeds benefits FOGP.

The County Executive's 2018 Budget Listening Sessions are open to interested parties. Betsy attended a session and suggests we send a letter to County Executive Chris Abele and/or Governor Scott Walker about the need for increased parks funding. If we can support the Bucks Arena, can't we also support parks? Another session will be held Aug. 24th at Wilson Park Senior Center.

We will discuss our budget at our September meeting.

Keith Schulenburg will attend the August SM C&BA lunch meeting.

Our next meeting is Sept. 14th, at 6:30 pm in the Horace Fowle homestead...

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson, Secretary and Interim Chair
Friends of Grant Park
www.fogp.org
Facebook: Friends of Grant Park