

Attending: Betsy Abert, Debby Pizur, Jackie Benka, Jody Johnson, Pam Uhrig, Rick Kaiser, South Milwaukee Police Officer Joseph Benson, South Milwaukee Police Chief Wm. Jessup, Brian Morrison, Lynn Meidam, Bobbi Koehler, Chris Marifke, Susan Gresser, Debbie Wilhelm, James Hogden

South Milwaukee Police Officer Benson reported that the police can now ticket vehicles with very dark tinted windows, having received training to measure degree of tinting. This is a case by case decision as explained by Chief Jessup. SMPD responded to a suicide in the park on August 1<sup>st</sup>; the County sheriff's department dealt with the greater part of the investigation. The public was never in danger.

We met and welcomed our new Police Chief, Wm. Jessup, who succeeded Chief Ann Wellens. He hopes to work more with our group in the future.

Treasurer's report from Lynn Crawford:  
\$7,653.31 at Guardian Credit Union  
\$10,625.67 at The Park People  
\$18,278.98 total

We had a table at Evening on the Avenue on July 26th, which was well attended. Sales of t-shirts and milkweed seeds were \$55.50.

Calendar update: the calendar layout is nearly completed. Historical photos are featured images. We plan to order 200. Cost will be \$12 each. We're also printing postcards to distribute as advertising. Pam Uhrig will handle mail order calendars; Jackie Benka will deliver calendars to nearby areas to those who order online.

Brian Morrison will contact the farmers market to find out if FOGP can have a table for 9/27 and for 10/4.

Community Night Out is Aug. 15th. Jody Johnson, Debby Pizur and Bobbi Koehler will work the event held at the South Milwaukee Police Department garage.

Rick Kaiser explained that the larger informational signs designed for the 7 Bridges Ravine will use the original photo after all; Sue Hebner enlarged a portion of the photo to observe the pixilation, and it was thought that the softened photo image would be a good backdrop to the sharper text. Todd Leech and Sue both recommend using as is. A fall installation is anticipated.

A new version of our Pullin' o' the Green fundraiser was proposed: Drinks, appetizers, and the band (Garlic Mustard Pickers). Suggested for the week before St. Pat's, the \$20 ticket would include one free drink. Still to be determined: venue, insurance requirement, raffle item(s), caterer or homemade appetizers, etc.

Weed-Out! dates were set for 9/22 and 10/6; rain date 10/20. We are grateful for the volunteers from the Nature Conservancy and LaCausa who helped to remove and relocate to the slopes Japanese Tree Lilac.

Seven Bridges BBQ is planned for Aug. 23rd, 5 - 8 pm. Although this is not an event of FOGP, we will have a table at the check-in area.

Master Gardeners Chris Marifke and Susan Gresser have done fabulous work at Will-o-Way. Milwaukee County Department of Disabilities was appreciative of the garden work. UW-Extension provided a small budget; plant stock was used from Milwaukee County's green house. Debby Pizur suggested we hold an Open House at the Will-o-Way garden for next year (and add it to our calendar?)

Youth Works volunteer work has ended for the summer. Much was accomplished, removing buckthorn, honeysuckle and burdock. Trimmings were used to block social paths along the ravine bluff to prevent further erosion there. Thanks was extended especially to Rick Kaiser and Jody Johnson for their oversight in this once a week seven week project.

We discussed membership benefits and the necessity of encouraging membership. We need a board of directors, a budget, and bylaws to be able to apply for some grant applications. We don't need to establish 501(c)(3) status; we can continue to utilize that status under the Park People umbrella. We should formalize this organization by year's end. Brian Morrison volunteered to design a tri-fold brochure to publicize membership in FOGP. James Davies has a rough version of bylaws that we can adapt for our group.

Betsy Abert purchased new plexiglass to replace broken plexiglass in the kiosk across from the golf course, and 2 volunteers erected the material.

If you spot a dead tree in a hazardous location in the park, contact Sean Kelly at the main park office: 218-4111 to report.

Our help is needed to recruit high school kids next summer to work in parks (for minimum wage, \$7.50/hr.) 6 positions were left unfilled this summer leading to short staffing.

Trek 'n Treat is coming Oct. 14th from 1-4 pm. Pam requested nature oddities to show/teach the kids: snakeskins, birds' eggs, skeletons, fossils, etc. and also suggestions for inexpensive non-candy treats for the kids.

Our next meeting will be held on September 13th.

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