

Attending: Rick Kaiser, Sue Hibben, Don Lawson, Betsy Abert, South Milwaukee Police Chief Ann Wellens, Jackie Benka, Lynn Crawford, Debby Pizur, Jody Johnson, Jan Marsh, Annemarie Adsen, Keith Schulenburg, Pam Uhrig

South Milwaukee Police Chief Ann Wellens began our meeting by saying she had not had any contact with the Grant Park Neighborhood Watch group since our last meeting. She asked that the group invite SM Police to their future meetings.

In the park, a building was broken into in the service yard area and some cleaning supplies were stolen. Video footage shows 2 caucasian females.

Ferch's is still not open for business at the beach; many improvements have been made to the facility. Ferch's signed a 5 yr. lease.

An individual was taken into police custody when found wandering the park with a knife. Mental health issues were suspected, then evaluated. The individual was then released.

Mayor Erik Brooks asked to have the fines for park violations reviewed to see if they can be increased. Once again, the entrance gates are being locked at 10 p.m.

A stray dog was found in the park and taken to SMPD. There, the dog will be checked for a microchip identifier; if none is found, the dog is taken to MADAC (Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control).

A complaint was sent to FOGP regarding dogs off leash in Grant and Warnimont Park. The complaint detailed a group of older adults routinely walking multiple dogs in mid-mornings without leashes. The dogs skirmish with each other, dart in front of bicyclists, and patrol out far from their owners. When a near collision occurred with a dog and cyclist, the owner and cyclist blamed each other with foul language. Can more citations be issued to enforce the on-leash policy? We will forward this complaint to Investigator Mike Hill at SMPD (Chief Wellens had already left the meeting).

We expressed deep gratitude to Don Lawson for his years of ably serving as chair of Friends of Grant Park. Betsy Abert had been serving as interim (informal) chair, but now she too is stepping down, so we accepted nominations for group chair. Betsy asked Jackie Benka to consider it, and when she declined in favor of being a committee chair, Larry Pizur was nominated. Larry was not present at the meeting; Debby will ask him. Don Lawson also suggested Larry as a possible membership chair.

The following positions and activities will be headed by these individuals for the near future:

Chair	???
Treasurer	Rob Vajagich & Lynn Crawford
Secretary	Jody Johnson
WeedOut!	Betsy Abert & Don Lawson
Environment, birding, & grant writing	Betsy Abert & Jan Marsh
Fundraising	Pam Uhrig, Jackie Benka, Debby Pizur
FaceBook	Betsy Abert
Website	Jody Johnson

Rick Kaiser reported that a scheduled conference call with Parks Director John Dargle about the status of the Cudahy Sportsmen's Club didn't happen. Rick did speak with Parks Chief of Operations Guy Smith, who said the director would be sending the lease termination letter shortly. Rick's concern is how County Executive Chris Abele will respond.

A post on our FaceBook page from a CSC member asked 'Where is the assistance FOGP offered to find a new site?' Betsy responded that she had researched 3 alternate sites and had forwarded the information to Parks and members of the Club. She also suggested that given the Club's having developed a legal funding relationship with the National Rifle Association, that the club ask for assistance from the NRA to hire a realtor to help them find a new site.

September 19th is the date for Adopt-A-Beach clean-up with a focus on the 7 Bridges trail beach. We are partnering with Alliance for the Great Lakes to be part of a larger coastal cleanup effort with the Ocean Conservancy. Volunteers will be asked to document each piece of trash collected, and to keep a separate count of shotgun wads. Volunteers can pre-register on the fogp.org website or go to www.adoptabeach.com.

Fundraising plans are going forward for a booth at the Winter Market in South Milwaukee on Sat. Dec. 5th. Jackie Benka suggested a photo sponsorship: work with 3 photographers that feature Grant Park, perhaps framing several of their best to sell at the market. Or use their photos of the seasons in the park in a calendar with dates noted for bird migration arrivals at Grant, Earth Day, WeedOut!, Bluebird's fledging, Pullin'o' the Green, etc.

Lake Michigan Trail Marathon was held on Sept. 6th, with 600 runners participating. The temperatures were brutally hot which may account for a lower turnout than last year. FoGP supplied support at one of the marathon stations.

A 75 foot section of fencing is being constructed by Eagle Scout candidate Alex Burant, using the remainder of fenceposts from the 7 Bridges ravine slope project. He'll rework the fencing to connect to the stairway leading down to the beach.

Jan Marsh looked into the lack of signage designated for the beach rain garden. She spoke to the recipient of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant, Dr. Julie Kinzleman; she said Grant Park was a sub-recipient, so it is parks that needs to follow up on this. Dr. Kinzleman still has some grant money left and offered to let the county use it if needed to create the signage.

We received an invitation to participate in a Bat Week event (Oct. 25 - 31). Sponsored by the US Forest Service, Bat Conservation International & others, they encourage groups to join them in a week that is dedicated to sharing the importance of those flying, furry mammals we love - and need - so much. They want to set a world record for the most bat houses built in a single day on October 31st, with a Bat House Building event. We all agreed it was a great idea! What do we do next?

Weed Out is scheduled for Oct. 3rd and Oct. 17th. Don will facilitate this.

Friends of the Mill Pond will host an open house on Sept. 26 and a Haunted House Oct. 24 & 25 at the Mill Pond.

A question about signage for the park was asked: Who buys signs? Whose permission is needed? We need signs to say PARK CLOSES AT 10 p.m. and one that reminds dog owners to keep their DOGS ON LEASH.

Our next meeting is October 8th.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson