

Attending: Deb Wilhelm, Debby Pizur, Betsy Abert, Jan Marsh, Rick Kaiser, Jody Johnson, Lynn Crawford, South Milwaukee Police Officer Tory Shields, Jackie Benka, Sue Hebner, Milwaukee County Supervisor David Sartori, Marilyn Killian, Lyle Stasney, Gene Johansen, Lynn Meidam, Ken Lauffer, Bill Kurtz

The South Milwaukee Police's Crime Prevention Officer Shields began by noting parking citations were on the rise. He requested better signage at park entrances posting hours and closure. He responded to a report shared on NextDoor.org. At about 4 am, several individuals exiting the park were loud and disorderly at the park's main entrance. The property owner reporting this to police put herself in danger while trying to copy the license plate number of the offender's vehicle and was then assaulted by the offender. Officers apprehended the offenders (!) and they were charged with \$2,000 in citations. Another incident involved a suspicious vehicle at 6:30 am in the park reported by a witness. Officers noted multiple warrants for the owner and tickets were issued. Officer Shields reiterated that suspicious activity in the park should be reported by calling SMPD at 768-8060 for non-emergency situations and 911 when a crime is happening.

A city wide block watch meeting is planned for August 31st. A woman representative from Milwaukee County Department of Corrections will speak about sex offenders.

A new event is in the planning stages for Grant Park: the 7 Bridges BBQ, scheduled for Aug. 30th. Sponsored by NEWaukee, an urban professional networking group, the event will have local restaurant tasting stations and brews throughout the ravine leading down to the beach for a BBQ with music, more brews, and great food. Friends of Grant Park is listed as a "strategic partner" and will receive a portion of the proceeds.

Our treasurer, Lynn Crawford, reported \$9,558.98 in the Park People account; \$3,996.29 at Guardian Credit Union, for a total of \$13,555.27. She also suggested FOGP open a checking account at GCU. There would be no charges other than overdraft fees.

Checks will be written for the following: \$100 to Julia Robson for her participation in Sustain Our Great Lakes hike; \$300 for a tree to honor FOGP founder and former chair Don Lawson's service. Betsy will search for an appropriate tree from local nurseries or the Park People.

We discussed final details for the Wulff Lodge Centennial Anniversary. YouthWorks volunteers will help clean up the grounds on Wednesday June 21st.

The volunteers from YouthWorks work every Wednesday from 9:15 until 3 pm. Rick Kaiser has a running list of projects for them to tackle. Call Rick if you have a task suitable for the middle to high school age group. Rick plans to meet with Debbie and Jackie at Wulff Lodge Tuesday, June 20th at 3pm to discuss work remaining on the lodge grounds. Rick has requested that someone supervise the group on the morning of July 12th. Lynn Crawford will supervise the group in the afternoon.

An interpretive sign for the ravine is needed. Sue Hebner will contact a graphics person. The emphasis should be on the unique delicate environment and to inform people about the damage done by volunteer foot paths. A second and larger sign needed was mentioned earlier by Officer Shields regarding Park Closing hours!

Jake Klingforth requested that the FOGP adopt and plant the 4 new flower boxes built by Eagle Scout candidates... Betsy will buy materials needed and annuals.

Lastly, send us your best photos for the 2018 Friends of Grant Park Calendar. Graphics designer Sue Hebner asked that photographers send their submissions as large as possible (no reductions) by email. Send to shebner@sbcglobal.net.

Our next meeting will be held on July 13th at 6:30 pm in the Golf Course Clubhouse. All are welcome to bring ideas and energy to our advocacy organization.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson, Consensus Chairperson and Secretary,
Friends of Grant Park
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