

# Friends of Grant Park Combined with ParkWatch

Meeting Minutes : January 8, 2015

Present: Betsy Abert, Jan Marsh, Lavonne Leonard, John Leonard, County Ranger Todd Pisarski, County Ranger Rob Worzalla, Pam Uhrig, Debby Pizur, Jackie Benka, Rick Kaiser, Lynn Crawford, Rob Vajagich, Keith Schulenburg, Don Lawson

## Parkwatch

Two full time Park Rangers explained that their team will fill out to seven with five additional seasonals in covering 156 Parks and over 13,000 Acres of parkland this year; they have provided their numbers for reporting issues below. They issued 105 citations in 2014, given mostly for parking violations related to soccer games on Sunday. This compromised rentals in the three picnic areas near the soccer field, and has resulted in the expansion to the southern portion of the park for soccer. Areas adjacent to the tennis courts lot and the old softball fields near 5A will host soccer in 2015, with the benefit of better parking opportunities at both, and alleviating the strain on the Areas 7-8-9 lot.

Contact info for Year-round Rangers:

Rob Worzalla - 414-378-6528 & Todd Pisarski – 414-217-4364/

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Discussion about the park's recurrent homeless individual took place with reports of his having returned to the park. Rangers reported that he has a "no contact order" meaning he may be arrested for return to the park following his destruction of park property and cameras. Rangers encouraged us to not engage this man, and to call local police or sheriff's deputies if he is seen again on park property. In a different incident, the person found to have broken into the beach house last year is now serving 90 days in House of Correction and is required to provide restitution for damage incurred.

It was reported that a buck was found, seemingly freshly deceased, atop the bluff before Christmas. The couple who found the deer said it appeared to them to have a gunshot wound. They reported it to individuals in the Clubhouse. It was discussed that the #2 parking lot has been used by some to bait deer with large piles of grain and corn being deposited there. It is a popular viewing place. *Note: after the meeting, it was found that subsequent search for the deer by Park personnel resulted in its not being relocated. Dated photos were provided by those who found the deer and shared with park personnel after the meeting.*

## FOGP

Trash receptacles at the Soccer fields appear to be lacking, with the issue of trash buildup in 2014 being noted again. It was suggested that we contact Alyssa Krueger at Parks to request additional bins including those for recycling. One suggestion was to bring a private cleaning company in every evening after gamedays, and then pass the bill for same along to the soccer clubs.

John McGivern's "Around the Corner" premier will be held on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will want to have a calendar of our events to hand out at the pre-reception in the High School Auditorium. Betsy offered to gather information. Other plans for the year were asked for.

Rick reported briefly on a meeting held at Supervisor Jursik's office with reps from the Sportsmen's Club, DNR, Parks and FoGP on December 12<sup>th</sup>. It was mentioned that our letters to the EPA had not been responded to. Several in the group suggested to go up the chain of command at the EPA with letters.

Agreed that Weed Outs would be scheduled for the last Saturday in April, and all Saturdays in May except that of Memorial Day weekend. Weather will be a factor, as it was mentioned that the previous winter held on so late that Garlic Mustard had not emerged well enough to pull by the end of April, '14.

Pullin' o the Green: March 21<sup>st</sup> would work for some of the Garlic Mustard Pickers, though some will be out of town. A couple of our mainstay volunteers will not be able to make it, and there was a notable lack of enthusiasm for the planning aspect during the meeting. *Note: shortly after the meeting, it was determined that the GMPs would not be available to play with a couple other members out of town. It was suggested that we let our annual dinner fundraiser go for this year in favor of concentrating on other planning for events this summer.*

Deb reiterated our need to plan and to find more members.

Submitted by Betsy Abert.