

Minutes from Grant Park Watch / Friends of Grant Park March 12, 2015

Attending: Debby Pizur, Jackie Benka, Jan Marsh, Jan Schumacher, Don Bully, Morgan Ottman, Sue Hibben, Pam Uhrig, Betsy Abert, Rick Kaiser, Rob Vajagich, Keith Schulenburg, Jody Johnson

No security issues were raised by those attending the meeting.

Don Bully, representing Friends of the Mill Pond, is the membership chair of the South Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce's Business & Community Association. He suggested FOGP consider sending a representative to share information about planned events and network with others in the association, which publishes a newsletter. Other sponsored events include the street banner project, Evening on the Avenue, and the Christmas tree lighting ceremony. A bulk mail permit is available. He left us with an application for membership, which would require a \$50 annual fee.

Thanks to the work of Pam Uhrig, Betsy Abert, and the original design from Michael Timm, we have an updated version of our own FOGP newsletter for 2015. Included are dates of upcoming weed-outs, meetings, bird walks, Traveling Beer Garden, and the Lake Michigan Trail Marathon.

Spring Weed Outs will be held May 2nd, 9th, 16th & 30th (meeting 9 a.m. at the tennis courts parking lot). New this year, we will begin a Burdock Busters weed out on June 6th & 13th (meeting 9 a.m. *near the playground parking lot* near the service drive), using our quirky new burdock buster spade, designed for this bur-ridden Nemesis. It's easy-on-the-back and knees. Betsy asked FOGP to approve spending \$175 for 7 spades. We approved.

After our discussion last month with Richard Fix about creating a welcoming pedestrian egress to the Oak Leaf Trail from Lake Drive, Betsy drew up some plans, which she will submit to parks to consider when they resurface the Oak Leaf Trail this coming summer. Hopefully the plan drawings will help to stir up community support for the sidewalk, which may cost as much as \$15,000. *Note: Matt Collins sent her drawings to Parks personnel who notified us that egress was already in the Oak Leaf Trail renewal plans! We believe that Richard's urging to parks and others was likely what swayed the decision.*

Jackie Benka suggested we think about having iconic Grant Park items made whose sale would raise money for the group. T-shirts? Coffee mugs? More tote bags? Stadium/picnic blankets? Bring Jackie your ideas.

Rick Kaiser brought us up to date on the Cudahy Sportsmen's Club issue (for newcomers to the meeting, we clarified our position with the gun club as not being anti-gun, but being about stewardship). A proposal previously submitted by Supervisor John Weishan was on the agenda for the Milwaukee County Supervisor's Parks Energy & Environment committee meeting scheduled for March 17. The previously tabled proposal would extend the club's lease by three 3-year extensions; 9 years total. Rick, Betsy & Jody will attend the meeting. The WI-DNR told the club that it could no longer use lead shot; steel shot is required. The DNR will also spell out new best management practices required for the club. The club is open for business.

Mark your calendars for April 18th (from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.). We will hold a spring Beach Cleanup for Area 5 beaches, going both north and south of the 7 Bridges trail, and the ravine itself. An idea was to award \$50 to the team of students that collected the most trash, or possibly which

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team collected the most shotgun wads. We will get the word out to as many MS/HS and college, scout, and church groups as we can think of.

The traveling Beer Garden will be in Grant Park June 16 - 28. Parks is trying to find a contractor to make the restrooms at 5A pavilion ADA accessible. Not much time is left to fix this before the event. If you know of a contractor willing to submit a proposal, we will put you in touch with Joe Mrozinski at County Parks.

Our trail of bluebird houses will be monitored this year by Betsy Abert, Lynn Crawford and Pam Uhrig.

We are in the process of getting estimates for a sugar maple tree to be planted in the park to memorialize Eleanor Hinich. Betsy called a local nursery, but said Matt Collins would check with parks forestry department.

Jackie Benka reported that our sales at the South Milwaukee Spring Market on March 7th totaled \$127. Special thanks to Debby Pizur's crocheting skills... she whipped up 6 or 7 hats in Irish green yarn that sold like hotcakes. We also sold 3 more FOGP tote bags.

Our next meeting will be April 9th.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson