

Attending: Debby Pizur, Jody Johnson, Keith Schulenburg, Lynn Crawford, Jan Schumacher, Rob Vajagich, Jan Marsh, Grant Park Unit Coordinator Jacob Klingforth, South Milwaukee Police Chief Ann Wellens, South Milwaukee Mayor Erik Brooks, Sue Hibben, Rick Kaiser, South Milwaukee Alderman Craig Maass, Jackie Benka, Pam Uhrig, Bill Kurtz, Susan Tangen, Robin McFadzen, Kate Prange, Annemarie Adsen, Don Lawson, Betsy Abert

We began with a brief memorial dedication to honor Eleanor Hinich. A Freemanii maple has been planted in her honor near the clubhouse, with funds donated in memoriam. A small memorial tree tag will be added shortly.

We welcomed new Grant Unit Coordinator, Jake Klingforth taking over following Matt Collins' departure.

We revisited a discussion from last month regarding disruptive after hours use of the park. It has come to our attention that park users don't always know the park's hours of operation. Some express surprise when told that the park closes at 10 p.m. which could explain why many people haven't left by then, or are just heading into the park right before closing. More signage is needed displaying park hours.

Mayor Brooks expressed satisfaction with the police coverage given their limited resources. A partnership is imperative between city/police response and neighbors.

Police Chief Wellens said the daily logs of arrests reflect that officers are routinely patrolling the park and ticketing individuals. She said a number of teens had recently been ticketed exiting the park after hours. She encouraged neighbors who report disruptive behavior to get license numbers, make of car, and description of the individuals AND to be willing to be a witness (give name & contact information) to the police. Lacking witnesses makes prosecution far more difficult for law enforcement.

Grant Park Watch, which is merged with the Friends of Grant Park, has done a small amount of patrolling on an individual basis when the park is open, with members driving through the park randomly to witness any unusual activity. No organized pattern of coverage has been successfully established. Mayor Brooks expressed his desire that Park Watch be reinvigorated.

A suggestion to expand the "no parking" area on Park St. to deter after hours park access was countered by the suggestion that it would cause individuals to park a block from the restricted parking zones. Ticketing for after hours violations range from \$75 to \$100 from the local police, to as much as \$400 from County Sheriff's deputies. When asked what percentage of parking tickets actually get paid, Chief Wellens said that many go unpaid, but then become commitments. Offenders can be arrested and sent to the House of Corrections. The city is then assessed \$35 per day for that offender.

A suggestion to require parking permits for residents along Park Ave. was raised. South Milwaukee currently does not require parking permits. Another suggestion was to change the signs on Park Ave. to read "No Parking after 10 p.m." rather than 11 p.m. Could the fine amounts be increased? This would require approval by the traffic commission. Do other municipalities have better suggestions to deal with this problem? Oak Creek has Bender Park; Cudahy has Sheridan Park; Chief Wellens will check with them.

We were glad to hear that the repave of the Oak Leaf Trail was scheduled to follow the July 4th holiday. There is more than enough congestion that weekend in the park.

The restrooms at 5A pavilion have accessible ramps now, but plywood temporarily separates the stalls. The actual stalls may not be finished in time to paint before the beer garden arrives.

Thanks was expressed for Adult Day Services' 12 volunteers who made a big difference picking garlic mustard with Pam during our WeedOut. These young men now recognize the invasive weed everywhere! Volunteers welcomed the opportunity and challenge. Perhaps we could offer a new concept to organizations: Adopt-a-Lot, to weed out garlic mustard, buckthorn, burdock, honeysuckle and Dames Rocket in designated areas.

The Lake Michigan Trail Marathon is returning to Grant Park this fall on Sunday, Sept. 6th. Volunteers are needed; Jan S., Debby P., and Keith S. have already done so. Organizer Chris Ponteri from Longrun Athletics, LLC, is hoping to recruit the cross country team members from South Milwaukee HS who were so helpful last year.

The group discussed the idea of enlisting the help of Common Ground with the ongoing effort to remove/relocate the Cudahy Sportsmen's Club from the Warnimont Park bluff. Don Lawson pointed out that Common Ground is playing a role already attended by Interfaith and MICA in the metro area. Common Ground addresses social justice issues by educating members of local organizations where and how to apply pressure on elected officials or state agencies to address their concerns. Citing our mission statement to preserve natural areas of the park, enhance unique features of the park, encourage use of the park, and to provide a mechanism for private contributions to supplement public funding of Grant Park, it was reasoned that spending FOGP funds (to compensate Common Ground staff) to address the gun club issue was not part of our reason for being. Individuals may choose to affiliate themselves with the organization.

A discussion commenced about the June 3rd town hall meeting hosted by Supervisor Jursik regarding the Cudahy Sportsmen's Club relocation proposal from the bluff in Warnimont Park to an interior section further south in Warnimont. Representatives from the following organizations presented their opinions and existing conditions findings: Milwaukee County Parks, Cudahy Sportsmen's Club, Cudahy HS Trapshooting Club, Friends of Grant and Sheridan Parks, St. Luke's South Shore Hospital, Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society, ROMP Dog Park and The Park People of Milwaukee County. 8 members of FOGP were in attendance. Attendees were invited to submit a brief question or statement.

Don repeated what he wrote to Director Dargle and Supervisor Jursik after the town hall meeting, expressing his opinion that the club be located away from residences and to be sensitive to PTSD veterans that may be living nearby. He also expressed doubt regarding the data presented by the club that noise testing revealed a 6 dB difference between the old site and the proposed new site. As an engineer having experience with sound sampling, he estimates the amount to be 10x that amount. Sampling equipment can vary the results.

On June 16th, the county's Parks Energy & Environment Committee will meet to address a second resolution from Supervisor John Weishan to make improvements to the site currently occupied by the Cudahy Sportsmen's Club. Members were encouraged to enlist friends and family members who live in the district to call the supervisor's who are on this committee: Gerry

Broderick, Jason Haas, Eddie Cullen, Deanna Alexander, Anthony Staskunas, Kaliff Rainey, and Steve Taylor. For best effect, constituents need to call.

Our next meeting is on July 9th.

Respectfully submitted by  
Jody Johnson