

Attending: Sue Hibben, Betsy Abert, SMPD Officer Todd Vinohradsky, MCSD Deputy Jo Donner, Jan Marsh, Jake Klingforth, Lynn Crawford, LaVonne Leonard, John Leonard, Pam Uhrig, Robin McFadzen, Kathy Dukes-Hubbard, Don Lawson, William Scott, Rick Kaiser, Keith Schulenburg, Larry Pizur, Debby Pizur, Jody Johnson, Jackie Benka

The 4th of July celebration in Grant Park was about average from law enforcement's perspective. Both SMPD and MCSD officers were on site and responded to the usual problems related to alcohol and fireworks. Neighbors remarked how the police presence made a big difference curbing the normal after-hours park user disruptions. Discussion of third shift security personnel ensued with concern expressed by neighbors re: insufficient overnight coverage.

Nighttime park issues have escalated recently; Wulff Lodge was vandalized June 27th with the front door and 7 windows and screens destroyed, requiring replacement with a potential cost over \$1,000 apiece with labor factored in. There was no rental that weekend. Security camera footage is being reviewed. We voted to post a \$200 reward for information leading to arrest of the responsible parties. Betsy will contact SMPD Investigator Mike Hill to post reward with Crimestoppers. Broken glass in the tennis courts, and garbage bins upended have also been reported.

We also decided to send a plea for more law enforcement protection to Supervisor Pat Jursik, County Executive Chris Abele, and Sheriff David Clarke. Milwaukee County Rangers may be helpful if they happen to be assigned to Grant Park for a special event, but they can only write tickets for parking, littering and off-leash violations. Rangers can call police for assistance, but are not scheduled to work after closing. We can contact John Nelson about park safety & security issues. We believe county deputies should deter after hours mischief with their \$484 disorderly conduct ticket. Generally, park problems are a *county* issue.

Burdock removal is scheduled once more for Saturday, July 11th, meeting at the #2 parking lot.

Jake Klingforth reported that the Beer Garden was a great success, grossing \$60,000 for two weeks. Next year, the plan is to extend the time to a full month.

Painting the renovated restroom stalls at the 5A pavilion has been delayed until paint samples determine if lead paint was previously used. If levels of lead are high, professionals must do the work.

Another Eagle Scout project is proposed for the park, this time from a scout named Alexander Burant. He proposes to replace a kiosk at the 7 Bridges entry area, but was unable to attend our meeting. We have invited him to our next meeting.

We have several rain gardens in the park, and maintaining them is necessary. We await some word on training as we are expected to participate in twice annual management of the new beach lot rain garden. It is believed that signage should have been included in the grant for the beach lot garden, and would be most helpful in deterring visitors from trampling (or playing soccer*) on top of it. Jan Marsh will contact Dr. Julie Kinzleman who was the grant recipient.

The Park People are sponsoring their 6th annual "Run for the Parks", on Tuesday, July 14th, as a lead in to the Chill on the Hill concert in Humboldt Park. Register at: <http://www.parkpeoplemke.org/register-6th-annual-run-parks>

The Lake Michigan Trail Marathon is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 6th. Our group was asked to monitor a hydration station again in the park. Let Jody know if you would like to volunteer for that. For info or to register as a runner: <http://www.lakemichiganmarathon.com>

On June 16th, the Parks, Energy & Environment committee of the County Board of Supervisors voted down an attempt to delay voting on Supv. John Weishan's resolution to relocate the Cudahy Sportsmen's Club to a portion of Warnimont Park further south and inland from their present bluff location. The committee then voted 5 to 2 to reject the resolution altogether. The resolution went to the full board for a vote on June 25th. Although support was strong to reject it, 7 supervisors objected to voting (as a "minority clause" allows), giving them the opportunity to redirect the issue to corporate counsel to consider the following question: Did the Patrick Cudahy family include language in their agreement with the county to donate property for parkland that allows the club to remain in the park?

We hope to generate e-mails or phone messages to reject this resolution to both Parks Director John Dargle and County Executive Chris Abele. We will distribute flyers to the Cudahy residents nearest the proposed site. The issue will likely be on the agenda for the July 30th full county board meeting.

The Cudahy Sportsmen's Club scheduled and then canceled a June 28th clean-up at the current club location. It was reported that a question on their Facebook page asks their members this: If a long-term lease extension is granted, would the 300 members remain at the current location even if they are not allowed to use lead shot? Most of the replies said yes. Supervisor Jursik is still looking for an alternate location.

An e-mail from Mayor Erik Brooks asked community groups to begin thinking about Christmas activities in South Milwaukee. Our plans? Suggestions were to repeat the program we had last December, adding Christmas themes: Night Walk / Owls / Cider and cookies. Perhaps we could print up more totes, with a better, crisper design. One suggestion: 5 Easy Ways to help Grant Park: 1.2.3.4.5.

The Oak Leaf Trail in Grant is scheduled to be repaved by Aug. 15th. It will be 10' wide.

Milwaukee County Parks was awarded a grant from UW-LaCrosse to conduct a survey and collect data from visitors to Grant and Bender Parks. Every other day, students will hand out questionnaires regarding park use. Results will identify strengths and weaknesses with a variety of services, amenities, and overall satisfaction with our parks. With this information, parks staff can focus on the most important aspects to their customers.

Next year we must focus on fundraising. Two main efforts will be the Pullin' o' the Green Irish Party and a table at the Winter Market in South Milwaukee. Fresh ideas are welcome!

Our next meeting is Aug. 13th.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson

*observed by a member of FOGP

