

Attending: Mary Nelson, Gene Johansen, Rita Wiskowski, Lynn Crawford, Jay Groenewoud, Linda Groenewoud, Betsy Abert, Jan Marsh, Jackie Benka, Don Lawson, Rick Kaiser, Jody Johnson

Our meeting began with unfortunate news: a recently installed park bench, donated by Don Lawson, was vandalized. Vandals hacked the steel bench from its supports and tossed it over the cliff down to the beach. Jim Goulee, of the Park People, will arrange for its' repair using heavier materials in the base. If the bench is targeted again, we'll post a reward for information leading to arrest of the perpetrators.

Grant Park Unit Coordinator Matt Collins reported that the security camera installation at the 5A pavilion is complete. Friends of the Mill Pond is installing cameras at the Mill Pond warming house, too. The last installation will be for Wulff lodge, which is regularly damaged and which parks hopes to protect as a main asset.

Jackie Benka and Debby Pizur will monitor the recycling event being held Aug. 23rd at South Milwaukee City Hall. A local firm, CasBro's recycling, will accept old electronic devices, small kitchen appliances, aluminum, etc. (no cathode ray tubes; take these to Value Village or Goodwill) A portion of the proceeds will benefit FOGP.

The Lake Michigan Trail Marathon is set for Aug. 31st. Volunteers are needed.

The fencing project along the ridge of the ravine has been completed by Milwaukee Community Service Corps volunteers. Their next project is to install concrete footings at the beach (for ping pong tables).

The Friends of Grant Park have been asked by Erik Brooks to suggest projects for Trinity Lutheran Church's Day of Service: "God's work, our hands". Volunteers will work from noon to 4 p.m. on Sept. 7th. Suggestions were to weed the rain garden by the tennis court parking lot, and also to remove burdock.

Former alderman Mary Nelson spoke about the *Restore the Lagoon* project, which began 2 yrs. ago when she began circulating a petition, gathering 2,000 signatures from people interested in the restoration. She contacted the WI-DNR, but they had no plans for it. Three volunteers came forward and they began fundraising activities. A goal has been set to raise \$1 million. They would like the sediment to be removed. The DNR says it's not likely to be toxic, just road and yard runoff. A \$10,000 test was to be done later this summer, paid for by the county. It has not yet been completed. The estimated cost to remove sediment is between \$700,000 to \$1.6 million. Ms. Nelson reported that Restore the Lagoon is in the process of becoming a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Jan Marsh spoke of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC)'s possible plans to consider the Oak Creek watershed as it's next project. She also talked of how dams are being looked upon realistically by local and national environmental planning agencies. The costs are prohibitive apparently, especially in terms of maintenance. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding deadline is Sept. 15th.

No news to report about the county's negotiations with the Cudahy Sportsmen's Club, but Rick Kaiser spent some time on the beach, picking up approximately 1,000 shotgun waddings from a 150 yard section north of the Seven Bridges area.

Grant Park was one of the areas visited by John McGivern for his public TV program "Around the Corner". He interviewed Jan Schumacher and Betsy Abert from the Friends of Grant Park, asking about Grant Park history and ecology from each of them respectively. The show will air on Feb. 26, 2015.

October 4th has been chosen as our next Weed-Out date for buckthorn removal.

Our next meeting is September 11th.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson