

Grant Park Watch / Friends of Grant Park Minutes September 11, 2014

Attending: Milwaukee County Sheriff's Dept. Deputy N. Kellner, South Milwaukee Police Dept. Investigator M. Hill, Rick Kaiser, Jan Marsh, Kathleen Arch, Lynn Crawford, Debby Pizur, Keith Schulenburg, Rob Vajagich, Jody Johnson

Investigator Hill reported that there were no major enforcement issues this summer. This past month officers reported 4 animal complaints, 2 persons arrested on warrants, 1 drug-related arrest, 2 disorderly conduct, 2 liquor violations, and 2 drunk drivers. Not so quiet this summer in the city of South Milwaukee with lots of vehicle break-ins (but many less in Grant Park this summer).

The vandals who damaged the gated window of the beach house around 5 a.m. in late August have yet to be identified. A video image was captured by our security camera, and is being circulated among officers at nearby police departments.

The vandalized park bench overlooking Lake Michigan has been reattached thanks to the Park People's Jim Goulee. It sits just off the bike path on the bluff north of area 2 parking lot. So you can "enjoy the view" again!

Sheriff's patrols for the park have been scaled back in recent years. If we would like to restore those patrols in the park, we should contact our county supervisor and/or the county executive to request an increase.

The newest Eagle Scout project, a kiosk, has been completed and is very nice! Zach Ollmann's project cost a total of \$1,044, and 330 hours of volunteer labor. Lynn Crawford will meet with Zach to get a photo for our website and facebook pages.

The Lake Michigan Trail Marathon went fairly well for its first launch. Suggestions to improve the logistics were forwarded to the organizer, Chris Ponterri from Long Run Athletics, LLC. Estimates were that approximately 400 to 500 runners participated. This race was the last race in which to qualify before the Boston Marathon. Our member volunteers agreed that they would be interested in helping again next year.

Debby Pizur estimated donations from the electronic recycling event held August 23rd at city hall to be about \$100. CasBro, the recycling company, is still stripping the collected items, so it's too soon for a final tally. Six computers were donated by the fire department, and about 10 came from city hall. We agreed to repeat this event during the same time frame next year.

We discussed the accessibility issue of pavilion 5A. Five years ago, Don Lawson broached the topic with the parks department of paving a small ramp to allow wheelchair access to restrooms. Due to the Americans with Disabilities Act, any improvement projects would have to involve bringing the entire building up to code, at an estimated cost of \$50,000 (for both restrooms). Stalls would need to be wider and concrete would need replacement. We should pressure parks to apply for available block grants specifically for accessibility issues (2015 grants are probably already awarded; it's not too soon to apply for 2016). Other options with less expensive price

Grant Park Watch / Friends of Grant Park Minutes September 11, 2014

tags might be construction of a single stand alone accessible restroom nearby, perhaps at the bottom of the access drive to 5A, next to the parking lot; or rental of a portable unit appropriate for wheelchair access.

Rick Kaiser summed up our ongoing concern with the Cudahy Sportsmen's Club. Parks Director Dargle told us in August that the county is *moving in the direction of* not renewing their lease, and Milwaukee County's corporate counsel recommends the same. Director Dargle is waiting to hear from the Wi-DNR regarding clean up of the property with or without lease termination. Several federal programs are designed to help with costs associated with clean up. Another issue is whether Director Dargle can proceed with this administratively, or does the county board of supervisors need to approve the action. The deadline to terminate the lease is Nov. 30th.

Friends of the Mill Pond is hosting a Halloween event October 24th and 25th. Visit their website for more information.

The next meeting will be October 9th.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson