

Attending: Kathleen Arch, Keith Schulenburg; Milwaukee County Parks Safety, Security and Training Manager John Nelson; Milwaukee County Sheriff's Deputy Nicholas Kellner, South Milwaukee Police Investigator Mike Hill, Jackie Benka, Ed & JoAnn Simmons, Betsy Abert, Jan Marsh, Annemarie Adsen, Rob Vajagich, Rick Kaiser, Jody Johnson

Unfortunately, this has been a busy month in Grant Park for the police. Wulff Lodge was vandalized twice in the last month, with windows broken. Mike Hill counted 10 vehicle break-ins since July 11th at Seven Bridges, and two occurring in area 5 & 6 parking lot. SMPD has increased patrol presence at Seven Bridges, watching for persons loitering and peeking in windows of parked cars. Of those arrested, drug addiction seems to be a motivating factor. County sheriff's officers are also patrolling in plain clothes.

We discussed adding security cameras. Trail camcorders can be as cheap as \$100, but don't provide enough resolution to identify a suspect clearly. Motion detectors might be a deterrent for the short term. Grant Park Unit Coordinator Matt Collins has requested a security camera be installed at Wulff Lodge. And, only one of two mercury vapor floodlights is working at the lodge. Our camera installation at the beach is not functioning reliably and needs to be replaced. John Nelson spoke to the company that installed the cameras, and an inspection revealed that the camera, which has a normal lifespan of 4 yrs., is not recording some of the time. There's no insulation to protect the camera from heat/cold and moisture problems from condensation are likely causing the trouble as well as dust on the lens. Perhaps an all-season camera is available, built for conditions similar to those in the beach house attic. John Nelson will investigate finding a new system, although FOGP would be asked to pay for it. Another option is a graffiti cam, solar powered. Expensive, but it works great: captures activity, then after an event the image is retrieved. \$600-\$700 (\$1500 - \$2000 recording 24/7).

If you observe suspicious behavior in the park, call police! Be prepared to provide as many details as you can: clothing, race, age, car make & model.

We have \$3,000 left of our SEWWTR grant to spend on the slope restoration project. The funds need to be used by April 2014. Our group was mentioned in the SEWWTR newsletter, and a photo of our work day is featured. That newsletter can be viewed at: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/158571300/Rivers-Report-Summer-2013>.

Parks is withholding payment from Stone Creek contractors because of some erosion near the stairs that needs to be fixed.

We are considering creation of a Facebook page. We have a volunteer who is willing to set up the page for us. We need a monitor. If interested, contact us.

It was suggested we submit a short article about FOGP to the Post, a local community newspaper.

The new website is very near completion, although new information is always popping up. The final technical details will be addressed as we switch internet hosts, possibly to Green Geeks.

A free concert will be held at area 5 pavilion on Aug. 15th at 6:30 p.m. featuring Steve Cohen Band and Greg Koch.

Saturday, September 21st will be our beach clean-up day as we partner with the Alliance for the Great Lakes. We'll meet at the beach parking lot at 9 a.m. and work until noon. Register at www.greatlakesadopt.org

Last, our fall buckthorn Weed-Out will take place Oct. 5th. We also need to work on maintaining the "wattle" brush fence above the bluff before winter. We will combine the two projects by transporting the buckthorn we remove to the bluff area where it will be woven into the existing fence. We'll call it "Weed-Out and Fence Fix Day." In the event of rain, the work will be delayed until Oct. 12th.

The next meeting is on September 12th.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson