

Attending: Jackie Benka, Jan Marsh, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Deputy Mark Mueller, Keith Schulenburg, South Milwaukee Police Officer Todd Vinogradsky, Rick Kaiser, Rob Vajagich, Jody Johnson, Don Lawson

There are two homeless "residents" in the park, according to Officer Vinogradsky. One has been arrested for stealing a cell phone and park employees' lunches from the yard office. The other man is still living in the park, and has a "Rasta" style of appearance. If you should see him, call the South Milwaukee Police Department.

Graffiti is an ongoing problem and the brand new park bench we installed at Seven Bridges is not immune. Yes, the graffiti can be removed; we need to contact Matt Collins, unit coordinator for Grant Park, to let him know. The parks department has a graffiti removal team, but if the tagging is likely gang-related, the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department should be notified and they will send their graffiti expert to photograph and compare with previous tagging, and possibly identify the tagger by his style.

There was very little trouble at the beach this past month. Cars left in parking lots after the park closes will be ticketed, but that hasn't been much of a problem lately.

Estabrook Park's beer garden was a topic of discussion. According to Deputy Mueller, the beer garden is a popular attraction, and people are behaving themselves there. Who knew? Should Grant Park get a beer garden, too? We'll have to ask Supervisor Pat Jursik about that...

The condition of the beach is good, but shotgun wadding litter still washes up on the beach from the Cudahy Sportsmen's Club shooting range in Warnimont park. A similar club in Racine has a lease condition that they agree to 24 hours of clean up each year. (update: a beach clean-up is scheduled for October 12 by the Cudahy Sportsmen's Club).

There was interest in the progress of the Friends of the Mill Pond and their ongoing desire to dredge the Mill pond. The sediment in the pond is coming from feeder streams upriver that need to be addressed to control water quality and sediment from washing down stream.

The bike path across from the Seven Bridges parking lot is still muddy, from standing water after rainfall. Perhaps we should consider adding some rain garden plantings to absorb the excess water.?

We are still exploring the idea of having a Facebook page, although no meetings of interested volunteers have taken place yet. This may be an opportunity to involve a student volunteer from the high school as a monitor, although we already have one volunteer from our e-mail network.

The new Friends of Grant Park website will be launched soon. (update: It's up and running! Check it out at FOGP.org.)

The fall weed-out session will be Saturday, Oct. 5, with two sessions: 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. We meet in the parking lot by the tennis courts. The focus is on buckthorn removal, and involves loppers, hand saws and herbicide use. Wear long pants, good garden gloves and sturdy shoes. This activity is not recommended for children. We will try to advertise this event on Jim Shelenske's E-Vents newsletter which comes out monthly.

Our natural wattle woven fence above the bluff is already breaking down and needs more brush and branches to keep it effective. We plan to utilize the buckthorn removed from the park to augment the fence. We will ask Matt if they have brush piles we could use, provided we do the hauling...

A suggestion was made to form procedure subcommittees: high school liaison, Facebook page, website, trash removal efforts, weed-out, fundraising, etc.

One more park bench, donated anonymously, needs a home somewhere in the park. Those willing to help find a suitable location should meet Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the parking lot by picnic area 2.

Our next meeting is Thursday, Oct. 10th.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson