

Attending: Annemarie Adsen, Rick Kaiser, Debby Pizur, Jody Johnson, Keith Schulenburg, South Milwaukee Police Officer Nathan Seiffert, Don Bulley, Sue Hibben, Michael Timm, Jan Marsh, Tina Pekar, Mark Ollmann, Rob Vajagich

Officer Sieffert reassured a new resident that Grant Park is on average a safe place for families, as long as common sense is used. Don't leave valuables in plain sight in your car if you are planning a hike to the beach. Report any suspicious behavior to SMPD providing as much detail as possible. Enjoy the park often, as more visitors deter those who may cause trouble just by their presence.

Mark Ollmann is a candidate for Eagle Scout from Troop 252. His project is to build a kiosk near the bike path, across the road from the 7 Bridges trail head. His kiosk includes solar panels on a shingled roof that will allow lighting after dusk. He asked the FOGP to sponsor part of the \$1,460 estimated cost. We approved funding \$300 of the project. He plans to begin the project in spring.

Our fundraising committee asked for more event dates to post on our 2017 calendar, including tentative dates. They also need more photo submissions of the beach and spring season. Our booth at the South Milwaukee Spring Market (March 20th) will offer tote bags, raffle items, park maps & Oak Leaf Trail biking passports. An appeal for funding in lieu of our canceled Irish party will be sent out to the FOGP e-mail network, with proposed summer projects highlighted. Lastly, Pam Uhrig shared a detailed outline of her plans for our newest outreach event, Trek 'n Treat, scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 16.

Don Bulley invited us to attend the South Milwaukee Community & Business Association monthly meeting (formerly SM Chamber of Commerce). Jan Marsh volunteered to be a representative.

Emily Weiss, Reference Librarian from the South Milwaukee Library, has requested by e-mail that FOGP assist with a summer reading program visit in July (or earlier) by leading a nature hike through the park lasting about 1 hour in length. A guide from FOGP would be helpful to present a few pointers about the park's natural features. We were unsure if specific reading material for the group would dictate the nature of the hike, and asked that Ms. Weiss present to the group next month.

A proposal put forward by Betsy Abert would use \$400 from FOGP as a matching grant to purchase dog waste receptacles for the park. She hopes to raise another \$400 from dog walkers with signage posted in the park. We discussed the idea, and it was proposed that we contact other parks groups that have installed them to see if they are useful or not. Regarding the issue of soliciting donations from dog walkers, Michael Timm offered an idea to use QR codes to allow people to donate funds on the spot if we posted the small square symbol in a central location, say on a flyer requesting dog walkers to chip in for the cost, posted in a park kiosk.

Weed-Out for garlic mustard is scheduled for May 7, 14, 21 and 28. Betsy can facilitate May 7 and 28, Jody & Rick will facilitate May 14th. We need one additional volunteer to cover May 21st. See Betsy if you are able to cover that date.

Birding enthusiasts meet Sundays in May at 8 a.m. Location has yet to be determined.

Those that can attend the public hearing regarding zoning of park land including Grant Park and Oak Creek Parkway on March 29th should contact Michael Timm, who will compose a resolution to read at that meeting. Current zoning of Grant Park is residential (R2).

Jan Marsh will be attending the upcoming SEWRPC watershed meeting on behalf of the EPA, but will keep us informed of their progress.

Our next meeting will be April 14.

Respectfully submitted by  
Jody Johnson