

## Friends of Grant Park / Grant Park Watch Minutes April 14, 2016

Attending: Jackie Benka, Debby Pizur, Pam Uhrig, Betsy Abert, Sue Hibben, Jody Johnson, Lynn Crawford, Brian Morrison, Ricardo Rodriguez, Jan Marsh, Keith Schulenburg, Gene Johansen, Deb Wilhelm, South Milwaukee Police Officer Nathan Siefert, Michael Timm

### **Park Watch: Security**

Officer Seifert had little to report, saying it was “a quiet month!” However, it was reported that a graffiti artist was identified scrawling religious verses in chalk on the bike path. Parks workers were notified and the individual was asked to stop. Chalk is not permanent, of course, but is thought to act as a precursor to gang graffiti.

### **Friends of Grant Park**

\$7,440.96 is the balance in our account with the Park People. A \$50 deposit was sent to Parks administration to reserve area 5a pavilion for October’s Trek ’n Treat. A \$141 deposit was made from the Winter Market sales.

A public forum was held by the City of South Milwaukee to discuss parkland zoning. Changes are forthcoming, and another meeting is scheduled soon. Mayor Brooks is in favor of keeping parkland intact.

Alliance for the Great Lakes has been in touch regarding plans for an event taking place in Illinois about ravine stewardship. Prior to that event, the FOGP will hold an informative 1/2 hour walk in our own ravine to examine the importance of ravines, watershed, and maintenance on Thursday, May 12th, from 5 - 7 p.m., at Area 5a pavilion. This will take the place of our regular monthly meeting. We will post flyers on our webpage and on FaceBook.

A new park bench has been donated in memory of Michael Siettmann. It will be installed by the Park People.

Milwaukee Parks architect, Jim Ciha, has been asked to design steps leading to a newly built bridge near Wil-O-Way and Wulff Lodge. The slope next to the bridge is badly eroded and continues to deposit soil onto the bridge deck and into the creek, creating an urgent need. Members met with him there in March. As well, he and Guy Smith were shown the dilapidated steps at the Wulff Lodge in need of attention. A steps concept draft will hopefully be completed in May. Concern was expressed that erosion be further prevented with properly planted slope cover and grading. We agree to support this work in whatever way we can. A recently announced water quality grant funding may serve this project well, and hope was expressed that Parks would apply for this.

Signage is needed at the site of our ravine slope restoration. It was also suggested that signs remind people to pick up their trash at the beach area.

Pam Uhrig is still seeking submissions of photos for our 2017 Grant Park Calendar. Needed are photos of the beach house, golf, playgrounds, shelter 5a or the beer garden, spring scenery, biking, and summer scenes. Pam is hoping to print by June.

The City of South Milwaukee is seeking a tree or Arbor Day activity. Betsy Abert is on the downtown beautification committee for the business district, and hopes to tie Grant Park into the mix. Ricardo Rodriguez offered to ask for donated surplus trees from his employer, the U.S.

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Forest Service. He will contact Parks natural areas coordinator, Brian Russart, to get a list of suitable trees. He added that he's not likely to receive surplus stock until next spring.

Spring Weed-Out will be facilitated by Lynn & Betsy on May 7th; Rick & Jody May 14th; Betsy & Pam May 21st; and Pam, Lynn & Ricardo on May 28th. Pam suggested we encourage individuals or groups to Adopt-a-Patch of garlic mustard for yearly removal.

We will hold a park clean-up Saturday, April 30th, from 9 am to noon. Our focus area will be sweeping the steps to the ravine, accessible from area 5 parking lot. Brooms and bags will be provided.

Member, Jan Marsh, is representing her employer, the US EPA, on the advisory committee for the review of the Oak Creek Watershed plan. There was a public kick off meeting at SM city hall April 12th. The purpose of the meeting was to begin to engage the public in the preparation of the plan. The plan will take about 2 years to complete.

Michael Timm recommends that FOGP begin leveraging point source fundraising such as QR code. The square QR symbol can be affixed to flyers, website and FaceBook pages. FOGP would need to open a PayPal account, and PayPal would keep a minor percentage as a fee, depositing the remainder in our account. We voted to accept this measure. Initially, we should design a flyer listing 2 or 3 projects for which we are seeking donated funds to post in kiosks in the park. Lynn Crawford volunteered to monitor the PayPal account as long as our current treasurers approve.

**Our next meeting will change from the norm: it is on May 12th from 5-7pm instead of 6:30 at Area 5 pavilion for the Ravine gathering.**

Respectfully submitted by  
Jody Johnson