

Attending: Pam Uhrig, Jody Johnson, Jackie Benka, Jessica Hilt, Lynn Crawford, Debby & Larry Pizur, South Milwaukee Police Officer Tory Shields, Betsy Abert, Lucy Liebenstein, Deb Wilhelm, Rick Kaiser, Rob Vajagich, Bill Kurtz

PARK WATCH/SECURITY

Officer Shields followed up on graffiti discussed at our last meeting to say they believe that it was the work of kids, though not gang related. A boat was abandoned at area 5 and towed away. There were accidents on the S-curve portion of the parkway involving teens. \$670 tickets were issued for speeding. A fire started in the brush near Wil-O-Way in December, along the edge of the woods. SM fire trucks were called. Someone was reported to be removing sand from the beach, and was notified it was not legal by law enforcement. Blood discovered along the breakwater was determined to be fish blood. A death reported in Grant Park on Nov. 11th was determined to be a suicide. Coyotes found denning behind Pick 'n Save were removed ("relocated") by law enforcement recently, and it was mentioned that the SMPD is keeping track of the local population including those in the park.

FRIENDS OF GRANT PARK

Wulff Lodge's 100th anniversary is in 2017. Local historian, Nels Munson, is willing to help us commemorate the occasion. We are currently listed as an extension of the Historical Society's Garden Tour on June 24th, but Nels thought a separate event would be better. It was recalled that Guy Smith from Milwaukee County Parks had promised that repairs to Wulff Lodge and particularly the (still) very damaged concrete steps would take place last summer. Anyone interested in attending organizational meetings for the anniversary event, should contact Debby Pizur or Jackie Benka.

Debby has contacted YouthWorks, a mission-based organization for middle schoolers who participate in volunteer work. Typically about 12 kids participate for a week in June, and again in August. We would need to identify a project, request their services in advance, and provide supervision for one day of work, Monday - Thursday, from 9:30 am to 3 pm. We need to reply by Easter.

The Green Bay Packers Foundation may be a source of grant money for projects. Debby Pizur will apply for this grant, but we need to specify what we plan to use the funds for.

After studying the design of a parks landscape architect, Betsy believes the stairway design utilized old topographic maps and does not fully address the erosion issues we seek to correct. She asked an associate landscape architect to collaborate on a revised plan to create steps and a landing/base that funnel any silty runoff away from the bridge and stream. A rough estimate for the revised plan is \$14,181 for steps and a limestone landing, but does not include the original plan's upper slope patio with limestone columns or full slope restoration to plant and mulch trees, shrubs, and ground layer plants. We can apply for a matching grant from the county or Southeast Wisconsin Watershed Trust to fund the steps installation and slope restoration. Two other companies will be asked for bids.

Rick Kaiser noted that there has been severe foot path damage to the slope area we had restored in 2012 and below along the creek, and suggested we contact Lake Park Friends about the wording on their signage to keep people from treading on restored slopes. Their signs along the Lincoln Memorial Parkway near the Art Museum seem to be doing the job. A sign featured

in our calendar was also suggested; it reads, "Off Trail Travel Compacts the Soil, Making Plant Growth Virtually Impossible".

Our treasurer reported that we had \$1,052 in expenses and \$1,783 net income from calendar sales.

Pam Uhrig reported that our calendar sales went very well overall, and with only 6 remaining unsold out of 450, we should be proud of the effort. Sue Hebner, design artist for the calendar, has volunteered to work on it again next year. We need a new project manager to find new photographs and work with Sue. We should be able to lower our printing cost by ordering in bulk now that we have a better idea what the market will bear.

A new attendee wondered if we were aware of cow parsnip plants in the park. It is not a candidate for Weed-out, given the phyto-toxicity potential with skin contact, and thus must be removed by Parks personnel. She noticed the noxious weed growing along the S-curves on the parkway. It grows 5' or 6' tall, with white flowers, and exposure to skin can cause UV-sensitivity, and rash. She suggested posting a picture and warning on both our website and FaceBook page. Thanks, Lucy!

Lastly, Pam has reserved area 5A pavilion for our next Trek 'n Treat in October; we owe \$75 to parks for the rental due in July. And the Spring Market in South Milwaukee will be on March 19 from 9 am to 3 pm. We need to submit a permit application soon (\$40 fee is waived as members of the SM Community & Business Association). Jan Marsh and Jackie Benka have volunteered to work a portion of this event. Please contact Jackie Benka if you are available for a shift at this fun community event.

Jake Klingforth sent us word that they are working with the Boy Scouts to make wooden planters for play areas and 5a. Area 7 is getting lights under the pavilion. 2 new dog waste stations will be installed in the spring. The bar area in the clubhouse is undergoing a makeover as well as the starters area of the course.

Thank you notes will be sent to the 2017 calendar photographers.

Our next meeting is on February 9th, and will be held at Aurora St. Luke's South Shore Hospital Board Room again.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson