

Grant Park Watch / Friends of Grant Park Minutes Feb. 9, 2107

Attending: Jan Marsh, South Milwaukee Police Officer Tory Shields, Jody Johnson, Debby Pizur, Jackie Benka, Keith Schulenburg, Rick Kaiser, Betsy Abert, Rob Vajagich, K. Kristy Yang, Annemarie Adsen

SECURITY ISSUES

Officer Shields summarized the previous month's police reports and incidents within Grant Park, and but for one notable event, overall there was minimal activity. He invited us to attend the All City Crime Stopper's Meeting in the South Milwaukee City Hall municipal chambers on March 23rd. In the area of Lake Drive and Park Avenue, a repeatedly loud muffler on a blue truck arriving in the park multiple times per day was reported to SMPD. Followup reports by park users of numerous "transactions" taking place between this truck and other vehicles in the Area 5 parking lot led to a drug bust by SMPD.

It was reported that a plastic child-sized car had been abandoned over the cliff near the bench near the Oak Leaf trail. Hopefully no one was driving it when it went over the cliff. Alcohol has not been considered a factor.

FRIENDS OF GRANT PARK

Our treasurer reported a balance of \$9,681.27 deposited at the Park People; and \$3,699.66 deposited at Guardian Credit Union in South Milwaukee.

We were addressed by K. Kristy Yang, a candidate for Milwaukee County Municipal Court Judge, District 47.

Rick Kaiser proposed having Parks evaluate local contractors to tackle smaller needed repairs more quickly. Rick reported that Guy Smith, Chief of Parks Operations asked Rick to suggest 2 or 3 contractors for pre-approval. Some examples are to fix a bridge railing in the ravine; replacing the vandalized plexiglass in the kiosk opposite the 7 Bridges parking lot; tuck pointing at Wulff Lodge. If you can recommend a contractor or have a project to suggest, please contact Rick and he will compile a list for evaluation. Rick's email address is kaiserlaw@wi.rr.com.

The South Milwaukee Winter Market is March 19th at the South Milwaukee High School. FOGP has reserved a table. Jan Marsh and Jackie Benka have volunteered to work that day, but a few more volunteers are needed to staff the table, in 3 hr. shifts: 9 to Noon; or Noon to 3pm. Please let Jackie know if you are willing to work. We will update our FOGP newsletter to share at the market. If you have anything to add to the newsletter, let Pam Uhrig know.

We learned about the SEWISC (Southeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium) grant. Funded by Wisconsin Energy's Foundation, it allows up to \$2,000 of funding for invasive species removal, with a 25% match required. The deadline for application is Feb. 22nd.

With recent news from California that glyphosate (Round Up) must now be labeled as a "possible carcinogen", it was asked if that information should be posted on our website, specifically when seeking volunteers to remove buckthorn. We will check with the Park People, creators of the Weed-Out program, for their guidance.

Debby Pizur elaborated on the activities suggested for the Wulff Lodge Anniversary event. She has contacted Judy Balistreri from the South Milwaukee Historical Society, and local historian,

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Nels Munson. She asked Guy Smith to let us know of any repairs planned for the lodge who, in turn, asked for her suggestions for repairs (Debby is compiling a list).

The rough details so far for the Wulff Lodge 100 year event:

- Saturday (Aug. 26 or Sept. 2); 1 to 8 pm
- Ask our mayor to open the event
- Campfire in the evening; Boy Scouts to manage fire pit (and possibly burn retired flags)
- Nels Munson to speak & show a film depicting the history of the structure and park
- Boy Scouts or Lions Club to sell hot dogs
- Dignitaries: County Executive Chris Abele; County Parks Director John Dargle
- Kids Activity? Raffle?
- Volunteers needed to staff event: National Honor Society & FOGP
- Ask Friends of the Mill Pond if they would like to partner or participate

If you would like to be part of the planning for this anniversary event, please come to the South Milwaukee Library on March 1st, the first Wednesday of the month, at 5:30 pm in the boardroom upstairs. We are also wondering if someone knows of an existing scale model of Wulff Lodge...

Due to foot path damage to restored slopes, Rick Kaiser suggested we get serious about creating signage to educate the public to stay on the trails. Suggested signs:

- FOGP project in progress
- Weed-Out
- Keep off the slopes
- New Planting - Stay off the slopes

Some in our group volunteered to get estimates for sign printing.

An email correspondence from Park Supervisor Jake Klingforth mentioned Boy Scout troop 108 doing a park clean up day, and then a sleepover at Wulff Lodge.

Beach Cleanup

A beach clean up day is planned for Saturday, April 22nd. Details yet to be determined. To volunteer, contact Jody Johnson.

The display case in the foyer at the South Milwaukee Library is currently available if we reserve it... The idea is to create a display to advertise the Weed-Out during the month of May and to highlight birdwatching Sundays in the park as well. We are seeking scale models of migrating songbirds for the display. If you have a bird carving, painting, or photograph we could utilize, contact Jody Johnson or Betsy Abert.

Debby Pizur will apply for a Green Bay Packers Foundation grant. The foundation awards grants to community group projects. We need to specify what we intend to do with the award.

Jackie Benka asked us to take the time to complete the online survey for friends groups. To find the survey, go to the Park People's most recent newsletter and click on the survey link: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/MilwaukeeCountyParks1/FriendsGroupMiniSeriesSurvey>

Our next meeting will be held on March 9th.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson