

Grant Park Watch / Friends of Grant Park Minutes January 11, 2018

Attending: Rick Kaiser, Debby Pizur, Jody Johnson, Debra Haley, Jan Marsh, Pam Uhrig, Lynn Crawford, Rita Wiskowski, Deb Wilhelm, Lynn Meidam, Betsy Abert, Jackie Benka

There seems to be a lot of anxiety about coyotes in the park. Local blogs and facebook posts warn people that coyotes may attack their dogs when in or near the park. Our position is that coyotes are welcome in the park, as are any other wild animal that chooses to visit or live there, and they provide ecological balance for the deer and squirrel population. Precautions include not letting dogs off-leash, and not feeding or "taming" coyotes. In general, they are likely to keep their distance from humans, and are not known to be aggressive unless approached particularly when denning. Some dogs, on the other hand, when off leash, have been known to chase as well as bite cyclists and other dogs, not to mention leaving "deposits" on the trails. Use common sense.

Jackie B. brought to our attention the 2nd Annual Addiction Information Resource Fair scheduled for Monday, Jan. 22nd at the SM Performing Arts Center. There have been 9 drug related deaths in South Milwaukee in 2017.

Our treasurer reported \$15,702.53 total in our combined accounts: \$5,598.62 at Guardian Credit Union; \$10,103.91 at the Park People.

Rick K. sent in comments regarding the proposed maintenance agreement with parks administration regarding the ravine signage we are having produced. There has been no response yet.

We discussed FOGP calendar sales. Betsy A. donated 19 calendars to Mayor Brooks for an upcoming meeting with county mayors held in South Milwaukee. Betsy in turn donated \$100 to cover those expenses. We had agreed to reduce the price on remaining calendars from \$12 to \$6 each available at retail outlets. Four to five calendars remain available following the mayor's meeting. Next year, we should have one person coordinate the calendar sales and distribution to avoid confusion.

It's back! Our annual Celtic celebration, **Pullin' o' the Green**, will return on Friday, March 16th at a new location, the South Milwaukee Yacht Club. It is our primary benefit fundraiser. With music provided by the Garlic Mustard Pickers, catering by Skyline, raffle, and a cash bar, we'll need a lot of volunteers to make this run smoothly. An organizational meeting will be held Thursday, Feb. 1st at 6 pm at the yacht club. The room is reserved (thanks to SMYC member, Debra H.) and Pam U. has already spoken to caterers. The room seats 100, and we will sell tickets in advance for \$30 each.

Donations pledged:

- shamrock cookies from Lynn M.
- tablecloths from Jan M.
- \$100 toward the rental fee donated by Debra H.!

Jody J. will produce a flyer and tickets. Road signs for the event will be updated or reordered.

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Our December Open House was a success. We agreed to do another gathering for the public; perhaps as a response to the fear of coyotes noted above, we could have a program about Co-existing with Wildlife in May or June and invite Diane Robinson from the DNR or Julia Robson who coordinates the Coyote Watch to come speak.

A new County Parks Director has been appointed: Jim Sullivan. Not much is known about him; only that he was promoted from within county government. We look forward to meeting him and welcome him to attend our future meetings.

We tabled the discussion about inviting Julia Robson to speak at a future meeting about her over 300 mile Walk to Sustain the Great Lakes in support of water education and outreach groups like the Alliance for the Great Lakes.

Our gmail network is off to a poor start. Gmail is not intended for bulk emails such as our group generates. We are back to using fogp@mycopper.net again until a better fix can be found.

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 8th at 6:30 pm in the Golf Course Clubhouse. All are welcome. As well, join us for the Feb. 1st planning meeting at the Yacht Club at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson