

Attending: Betsy Abert, Jody Johnson, Sue Hibben, Pam Uhrig, Tom Gardner, Lynn Meidam, Deb Wilhelm

Park Watch / Security:

Tom Gardner was concerned about dogs being off leash regularly in the park, and dog waste being left behind. This is dangerous for bicyclers (and dogs!) on the bike path, as well as people who are approached by dogs. It was suggested that the police rarely ticket offenders so the practice continues. Can FOGP post the phone number for SMPD somewhere so people can call to report the infraction? Can FOGP install a dog waste station near area 7 parking lot? Can the dog waste sign we posted near the entrance be moved to the parking lot area?

Treasurer's report:

Guardian Credit Union balance	\$ 3,907.56
Park People balance	<u>10,012.24</u>
Subtotal	\$13,919.80

Pam Uhrig reported that all systems were go for Trek 'n Treat, having enough volunteers to staff all stations on the route. Weather may be an issue.

The 2018 FOGP Calendar is nearly completed, needing only a few minor details (as of this publication, the calendar has been completed and is available as our fundraiser).

Milwaukee County Parks is offering a Friends Group Mini Series. The call sessions will cover Grantwriting for park projects (Oct. 24th), Native Species (Nov. 9th) and Volunteer Recruitment & Retention (Dec. 5th). More information can be found here:

<http://www.parkpeoplemke.org/sites/default/files/friends-flyer.pdf>

The code to register for free as a friends Group is FRIEND.

The deadline is approaching for the Southeast Wisconsin Watershed Trust grant. Betsy proposes applying for a \$5,000 matching grant (\$10,000 total). Suggestions for use of the grant monies are permanent trash cans, one recycling station or revisiting the fix for the steps near the new bridge near Wil-o-Way lodge.

Weed-Out! will focus on porcelain berry removal. Natural Areas Coordinator Brian Russart will be bringing in some special equipment for the task. FOGP will concentrate on buckthorn removal from the bluff.

Although Rick Kaiser was not at the meeting, he sent an email update regarding the *Save the Ravines* signage. Location of the signs will be determined by Parks planning department and trails staff. Then, Brian Russart, Tapco (which is producing the signs), and FOGP would meet at the site to confirm the location. If this doesn't take place by mid-November, it must be delayed until spring due to ground freezing and other issues. A \$2,600 down payment (one half the project's cost) must be made to Tapco before they start on the project. It is Rick's opinion that we should tell Tapco that we will likely push the installation off until spring, and will be sending a check at that time.

Jody Johnson expressed her concern to get more recycling containers for the park. Another issue is providing more containers for hot coals from BBQ grills. Currently, some park users are dumping coals near the base of trees at the lakefront.

17 trees that FOGP ordered will be delivered later this month. Parks natural areas team may choose site and handle planting of the trees.

Julia Robson accepted our invitation to speak at our November meeting. She will speak about her recent Walk to Sustain the Great Lakes.

Sue Hebner will attend the South Milwaukee Community & Business Association November luncheon.

Planning ahead, Jody will reserve the South Milwaukee Library display case for Oct. 2018 so that we can make a display for Trek 'n Treat and fall Weed-Out! programs.

A new idea was presented: Rekindling the St. Pat's party theme, should FOGP hold a St. Pat's Dinner at the South Milwaukee Yacht Club? It could be catered, with the Garlic Mustard Pickers entertaining, and tickets at \$25 each. Limited seating. The Yacht Club would have a cash bar for beverages. Let Pam Uhrig know if this idea works for you!

Lastly, Jody raised the issue of possibly changing the FOGP email network interface over to a Mac-based program. The current FOGP network is paid for by our former chair, Don Lawson. More discussion is needed.

Our next meeting is Nov. 9th, at 6:30 pm in the golf course clubhouse.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson, Secretary and Interim Chair
Friends of Grant Park
www.fogp.org
Facebook: Friends of Grant Park