

Attending: Pam Uhrig, Jody Johnson, Jackie Benka, Lynn Crawford, Betsy Abert, Deb Wilhelm, Rick Kaiser, Jan Marsh, James Davies, Sierra & Wilson Patterson, Laura Rubin, Lynn Meidam, Tom Gardner, Annemarie Adsen, Debby Pizur

PARK WATCH/SECURITY

We chose not to discuss security issues given time constraints primarily.

FRIENDS OF GRANT PARK

Treasurer's Report: Guardian Credit Union balance \$4,988.40. Park People account \$10,012.24.

We discussed the proposed maintenance agreement with parks administration for the new signage we are having produced for the ravine. For instance, if the signs are vandalized or covered in graffiti, who pays to fix? Repainting over graffiti can be complicated, depending on the surface being painted. We would want them fixed ASAP regardless of who covers the cost, but need to be realistic about our ability to pay for an unknown number of incidents. Rick Kaiser hopes to contact other friends groups who have already signed maintenance agreements with parks, such as Estabrook Park Friends, and Friends of Wehr Park before formally replying to parks administration.

We have learned that Milwaukee County Parks Administrator John Dargle resigned as of Nov. 30th. He had stated that his long term plan was for self-supporting parks by 2024, a statement that has been met with questions/concerns but a number of groups. Chicago and Minneapolis both have elected park districts with separate finances. Currently, money for parks is continually redirected to other pressing county needs, resulting in ever-growing deferred maintenance.

We agreed to switch our email network from MyCopper.net over to gmail.com. This has several benefits, and Jody will work on making the change.

The idea of hosting another St. Patrick's Day dinner fundraiser is taking shape. The South Milwaukee Yacht Club is more affordable if a member makes the reservation. We have a member who can be our sponsor. Tentatively we are looking at Friday, March 16th. The Garlic Mustard Pickers have an opening that evening and are willing to play for us. We will gather estimates for catering, and the club agreed to a cash bar arrangement. Stay tuned.

The South Milwaukee market is expanding to more dates! FOGP can reserve a booth for \$25. It would likely be worth our efforts. Debbie Pizur suggested we agree to a booth for the March 25 market (10 am - 2 pm), but only *if we have something to sell*. All suggestions are welcome.

The South Milwaukee Festival of Trees will premiere on December 15th from 4 - 7 pm. Families are invited to view the trees, sing holiday carols and sip on hot chocolate and candy canes provided by Caterpillar and Ace Hardware. FOGP has a tree to represent our group's focus on invasive species. Our tree is adorned with bad stuff like porcelain berry and Japanese lilac (although garlic mustard is not in season). Thanks to Sierra P., Lynn C., Lynn M., Debby P., Betsy A. and Jackie B.

Pam Uhrig asked us to approve reserving Area 5 pavilion for our next Trek 'n Treat. She will reserve Sunday, Oct. 14th.

We express our deep appreciation to graphic designer, Sue Hebner, who led the design and facilitated production of our 2018 Calendar, and to South Milwaukee Police Chief Ann Wellens upon her retirement. Letters will be sent to both by Sunshine Committeeperson, Ann Marie A.

Our next meeting is on January 11th at 6:30 pm, and will be held in the golf course clubhouse. Please watch your emails prior to the meeting... the clubhouse may be undergoing maintenance and we may have to quickly relocate the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson