

Attending: Deb Wilhelm, Annemarie Adsen, Lynn Crawford, SMPD Officer Joseph Benson, Betsy Abert, Jackie Benka, Lynn Meidam, Debbie Pizur, James Davies, Tom Gardner, Rick Kaiser, SMPD Lt. Dan Fournier, Jody Johnson

Lt. Fournier from SM Community Policing Unit reported that there were no major incidents in the park during the last month. He noted the presence of more patrols by MKE County Sheriff's deputies ushered in with the new Sheriff's administration. Unmarked vehicles are in use, and overall there is good communication between city and county patrols. Betsy Abert alerted the officers that she recently observed some type of hand off transaction in the parking lot by the bird feeder.

Treasurer's report:	Guardian Credit Union - checking	\$1,792.20
	Guardian Credit Union - savings	957.08
	<u>The Park People</u>	<u>10,376.71</u>
	Total	\$13,125.99

Lynn also received notice of SM Community & Business Assoc. yearly dues of \$85. She will inquire if there is a non-profit rate before paying.

We discussed details for the March 16 Pullin' o' the Green party to be held in the golf clubhouse. Volunteers are needed to help; contact Jody Johnson to help out. Invitations are to be emailed to our contact list on or about Feb. 20th and RSVP is required. Briefly, guests are asked to donate \$25 each, and can enjoy food, music, libations and raffle items. Guests will be granted membership in FOGP. Proceeds to benefit FOGP projects.

We felt it necessary to define benefits of "membership" for future members.

1. email notification of meetings and events
2. discounts on select FOGP merchandise
3. participation and camaraderie at fun events
4. promoting our community and helping preserve our park for future generations

Tom Gardner mentioned that the FOGP website is woefully lacking current information, and volunteered to assist Jody to bring it up to date.

Betsy Abert shared the final report she filed with the Southeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium regarding a grant we received in 2018 for financial assistance with tools and herbicide needed for WeedOut programs. 460 hours of donated volunteer time was logged. FOGP received \$1,554 from SEWISC.

James Davies suggested we look into applying for a SPARK grant earmarked for repairs in parks for matching funds up to 50%. \$200,000 is designated in parks budget for this program. Application can be made on parks' website. James volunteered to assist. This might be a good way to fix our kiosks and the rusting guardrail along Lake Drive at the main entrance. Debbie Pizur alternately suggested we apply to Rotary Club for \$100 to fix kiosks.

Our interpretive signs for the ravine are not yet installed. The footings have been poured, but the weather prevented installation.

We would still love to share Julia Robson's experiences from the 2017 *Walk to Sustain the Great Lakes*. A film is nearly complete. Betsy will ask Julia to contact us when the film is ready.

Debbie Pizur and James Davies will meet to work on a draft for board and bylaws. Anyone wishing to help with this should contact Debbie Pizur.

Betsy asked everyone to help find volunteers for *WeedOut*. FaceBook has not been an effective way to find volunteers. We discussed different approaches to propose such as groups or individuals adopting a patch of the park; suggesting shorter blocks of time (as little as 30 minutes) to encourage any sort of participation; and trying to contact members of congregations, community colleges or corporate PR departments to invite groups of parishioners, students or employees for a work day in Grant Park. Contact Betsy if you have a lead on this.

FOGP will have a table at the South Milwaukee Spring Market on March 24th, from 9 - 2 pm in the SMHS commons.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 14th at 6:30 pm in the golf course clubhouse.

Respectfully submitted by  
Jody Johnson