

Grant Park Watch/Friends of Grant Park Minutes

Oct. 10th, 2019

Attending: Rick Kaiser, Betsy Abert, Lynn Meidam, Jan Marsh, Debby Pizur, Jody Johnson, Pam Uhrig, Debbie Wilhelm, Jackie Benka, Brian Morrison, Anneke Mohr from City of Milwaukee Tobacco Free Alliance

Security:

There were no security issues to report.

Treasurer's Report:

Cash set aside for Trek 'n Treat: \$620

Checking balance is \$3,882.11

Savings balance is \$3,469.08

Park People balance is \$10,421.10. Total balance is \$18,392.29

Steps project:

Betsy met with Gary Raasch with R.A. Smith Engineering, who has agreed to our RFP for surveying our steps for \$2K. Generously, he also suggested seeking new grant money to pay for wood steps to the sluiceway at the convergence of three trails in the ravine near the north end of the park. He also suggested installing wood steps for our step project, matching the steps on the opposite side of the bridge.

Hold On To Your Butt, MKE!

To address cigarette butt litter, Anneke Mohr met with us to invite us to the launch of the HOTYB campaign, on Oct. 15th at 1 pm at Moosa's parking lot, at Bradford Beach. She hopes we can also attend a strategy meeting on Oct. 31st at Medical College of Wisconsin from 12 to 2 pm. Focus on smoke-free Summerfest and eliminating sales of tobacco at festivals.

Trek 'n Treat:

Final plans are set for Trek 'n Treat. Last minute volunteers are still needed. We are planning for 250 participants this year.

South Milwaukee Winter Market:

Our fundraising committee is focusing on bird friendly merchandise this fall. Jackie Benka is scouting for shade grown "bird friendly" coffee to sell, and window decals that discourage birds from window collisions. Deb Pizur is working on a Grant Park coffee mug to stuff with a bag of coffee or chocolates. The Winter Market is on Sat., Dec. 7th, from 9 am to 2 pm.

Debbie Wilhelm told us about reusable straws to replace single use straws, but it was decided that it would not be a good fit for the winter market. Rather, we could suggest to parks to put limits on vendors in the park to avoid plastic straws and offer to supply one business with paper straws on a trial basis, and ask for feedback.

The Park People will host a Gala Dinner on Sat., April 25, 2020 at Boerner Botanical Garden. We were invited to participate, and decided to enter a silent auction item from our group. We can also attend as either a guest, for \$150 each, or to work at the event (no charge!). We need to notify Barry Waddel by Nov. 1st. Brian Morrison volunteered to donate 3 handmade bird houses to sell at the event.

There was a request to pull weeds in the flower beds surrounding the clubhouse. Nancy Wucherer from Friends of the Mill Pond will be there Weds., Oct. 16th at 1 pm and would appreciate our help.

There was discussion about creating a future FOGP calendar, such as a Field Guide to Grant Park, featuring the photography of both Keith Orcholski and Todd Leech among others.

Rick Kaiser said our tree order may be delivered sometime in late October. He also mentioned a donation of about a dozen small trees from the US Forest Service including some beech, and oak. Ricky Rodriguez from USForest Service wants to bring a student group from Hawley Environmental School to plant the trees. Rick will try to coordinate time of planting, but planting the trees ASAP is the goal.

We will finalize our Board & Bylaws at our November meeting. An updated version will be sent prior to the meeting for your review. General board elections will be held in December.

The Oct. 26 WeedOut will meet at the area 7-8 parking lot at 9 am instead of the tennis court lot due to a WIAA regional cross country meet taking place in the main park areas.

We agreed to send thank you cards to all of our Suburban Soles facilitators for a job well done.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jody Johnson