

Grant Park Watch/Friends of Grant Park Minutes

August 8th, 2019

Attending: Rick Kaiser, Lynn Meidam, Jan Marsh, James Davies, Jody Johnson, Pam Uhrig, Lynn Crawford, Debbie Wilhelm, Alan Liebsch, Patrick Hintz, Jackie Benka, Annemarie Adsen, Brian Morrison

Security:

There were no security issues to report. Some golfers were hitting golf balls out into the lake from the bluff where the former Cudahy Sportsmen't Club was located.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking balance is \$4,892.61. Savings balance is \$3,468.79. Park People balance is \$10,421.10. Total balance is \$18,782.50. Jackie Benka asked if we could earmark a separate fund or account for future fundraising. We decided to discuss in December during our budget meeting.

We applied for a Bucyrus Foundation Grant on July 19th. Jan Marsh and Debby Pizur worked on the application. Now we wait...

James Davies mentioned TAP Grant as a possibility for bike trail maintenance. Transportation Alternative Program grants are awarded to municipalities which are required to supply a 20% match for the programs. Many TAP projects enhance non-motorized forms of transportation like biking and walking. An application must be submitted by the county. The program is administered by WISDOT.

Work is proceeding on the 2020 FOGP Calendar. Our theme is Preserve Grant Park. Our aim is to send our layout to the printer by the end of September, with calendars printed for our October Trek 'n Treat on Oct. 13th.

We are moving forward with our smoking ban campaign. James Davies draft ordinance was given to Milwaukee County Supervisor Steven Shea. He will raise the issue at the Sept. 10 Committee on Parks, Energy & Environment in the County Courthouse. Jody Johnson will contact two local municipalities that have passed similar ordinances: Shorewood and the city of Greenfield, to learn from their experiences.

Trek 'n Treat will be on Sunday, Oct. 13th, Area 5, from 1 to 4 pm. Same activities and format as last year. Bring education enhancement ideas to Pam Uhrig. Expected attendance: 250?

UW-Milwaukee environment & geography students need to accumulate 10 community service volunteer hours. Betsy Abert & Pam Uhrig will meet with organizers and students on campus prior to our Beach Clean up, Trek 'n Treat and WeedOut events. We requested 200 total volunteer hours.

Since our Suburban Soles program is gaining in popularity, averaging 35 attendees, we need to invest in a small microphone system for our speakers. Jackie Benka purchased a small head set and portable base for \$67. We can now offer the mic as "optional" equipment for speakers. FOGP will reimburse Jackie for the set.

Community Night Out is Wednesday, Aug. 14th, in the SM Police Station garage. We will have an information table from 5 to 8 pm.

The summer Youth Works volunteer season is over. Volunteers came from ND, MN, MI, IL, IN, and Janesville, and worked with Nature Conservancy and Milwaukee County Natural Areas teams on Wednesdays. This was hard work, removing Burdock, Buckthorn and Japanese Lilac. Great participation! *Volunteers thanked us* for the opportunity to work in GP! Next spring we need to evaluate whether we will ask for an additional half day of volunteers again. Thanks to Rick Kaiser for facilitating this project, and to all who helped him fill in the gaps in scheduling.

Evening on the Avenue was a good outreach event again. We added many new contacts to our email network.

James Davies informed us to be aware that a Superfund site south of Everbrite (south of Drexel and east of 5th Ave.) is now city owned. It includes lakefront and wetlands.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12, at 6:30 pm in the golf course clubhouse.

Respectfully submitted,
Jody Johnson