

Grant Park Watch/Friends of Grant Park Minutes

Dec. 12th, 2019

Attending: Rick Kaiser, Lynn Meidam, Debby Pizur, Jody Johnson, Pam Uhrig, Debbie Wilhelm, Rick Evan, Karin Franklin, Jamie Allard, Lynn Crawford

Security:

There was concern about the entrance gates being left open on some nights when maintenance staff is not scheduled til closing. SMPD tries to cover the gap, but sometimes they are busy with other calls. As a result, a deer was found, gutted and dehorned, apparently killed by poachers who left bait strapped to a nearby tree.

Three or four forts have been constructed in wooded areas near 7 & 8. Damage has been reported to the new trees planted in those areas.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking balance is \$6,400.21

Savings balance is \$3,597.37

Park People balance is \$12,261.10. Total balance is \$22,190.68

We voted to adopt Bylaws for the Friends of Grant Park. Out of 10 people attending, 7 voted in favor to adopt; 3 abstained. The motion passed.

We voted for new board members for 2020. The results:

(consensus) Chair, Jody Johnson

Vice Chair, Debby Pizur

Secretary, Lynn Crawford & Debby Pizur (shared)

Treasurer, Lynn Crawford & Debbie Wilhelm (shared)

Members at Large: Pam Uhrig, Frank Gratke, Betsy Abert

Steps project update: The engineer submitted a contract & bill for the survey work to be done. We also asked for a survey of a 2nd set of steps near the beach, but that work would have to be paid for without Bucyrus Foundation grant funds. The estimate was \$800 for a survey of the steps near Will-o-way.

Park People Gala Dinner... we are still seeking donations for our silent auction table at the gala. Contact Deb Pizur or Pam Uhrig if you wish to donate something for this gala event in April 2020. These items have been donated so far: Handmade Quilt; Bubblr Bike use for 1 year; personal tour of Grant Park with Parks natural areas expert Brian Russart & box lunch; 3 handmade bird houses; and a spectacular matted & framed bird photo by Todd Leech.

Our group had \$254 in sales at the South Milwaukee Winter Market. Deb Pizur will go ahead and reserve a table for the Spring market. We still have bird friendly ground coffee for sale.

Rick Kaiser and Betsy Abert attended a meeting to introduce the new Milwaukee Parks Foundation board to the public to generate interest. Several large donors have started things rolling. This is not a replacement for parks funding through the tax base. County Executive Chris Abele donated \$250,000; Miller-Coors donated \$50,000. Donations total \$400,000 so far.

Betsy Abert, though not present at this meeting, suggested we host Eddee Daniels, board member from Preserve Our Parks, to do a presentation at a future meeting, possibly open to the public. More on that at our next meeting?

After our initial collaboration with UWM Service Learning Volunteers this fall, we were asked if we would be willing to work with student volunteers again for spring term. Yes, of course! Jody will update the volunteer request profile to outline the nature of volunteer opportunities in Grant Park offered during spring semester: Beach Clean-up in April, Weed-Out in May, and brush pile removal to social trails. We need to offer a total of 10 hours per volunteer to be eligible.

We received news from Patrick Hintz about Milwaukee County Parks plan to repave the road down to Grant Park Beach in spring 2020. The funding is approved. The earliest it could be done would be end of April, 2020. Mayor Brooks has offered to bring large scissors to cut the ribbon when it is open to the public.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, Jan. 9th at 6:30 pm in the golf course clubhouse.

Respectfully submitted,
Jody Johnson