

## FRIENDS OF GRANT PARK MINUTES FEBRUARY 13, 2020

**Attendance** Lynn Meidam, Jody Johnson, Brian Morrison, Lynn Crawford, Pam Uhrig, Robert Kempke, Tom Gardner, Jackie Benka, Jan Marsh, Rick Kaiser, Deb Pizur, Betsy Abert, Annemarie Adsen, Lori Vesser

**Security** Betsy shared with us that some signs in the park had been tagged with silver paint. Parks removed the graffiti. A substance Parks often uses for graffiti removal is Goof Off. For any volunteers removing graffiti, two suggestions are (1) use lots of rags and (2) wear gloves. Someone on the FoGP Facebook page offered to clean up some graffiti that was spray painted under a bridge, but that job is best left to parks so as not to get graffiti remover into the water. Thank you, Betsy, for notifying parks about the vandalism so quickly.

### **Treasurer Report**

Reconciled Checking	\$5,560.21
Savings	3,529.67
Park People, Jan 23, 2020	12,491.10
Total	\$21,580.98

### **Park People Gala Dinner**

April 25, 2020

6:00 pm – 11:30 pm

Boerner Botanical Gardens

Auction items include a beautiful handmade quilt, Milwaukee County Park certificates and merchandise, a night at Wulff Lodge for up to 20 people, a private tour and lunch with Brian Russart, a membership to Madison's Olbrich Botanical Gardens, and several items by local artists.

**Missing Gargoyle from Pavilion** Betsy found and contacted Beth Sahagian of Vanguard Sculpture Services for assistance in restoring the gargoyle heads that decorate the Pavilion at Area 5A. Of the 28 gargoyle heads, two are severely damaged and have been removed. It appears there are three options for the damaged heads: (1) Sculpt new gargoyle heads on the posts that have replaced the posts that had the damaged heads. (2) Cast new gargoyle heads. (3) Treat the gargoyle heads with insecticide and Abatron, then restore or recreate the heads as needed. Betsy will follow up with Beth Sahagian on these ideas. Thanks Betsy!

Points brought up regarding the gargoyles: Maybe the new Parks Foundation can help with costs. There may be historical grants because the pavilion and gargoyles were part of the Work Projects Administration (WPA). Perhaps Lindsey Frost, the liaison to friends groups, could offer suggestions or attend one of our meetings. Historian John Gurda may have more information on the gargoyles.

**PCB Letter** Thanks to Jan Marsh and Alice Thompson for alerting us to the PCB issue at the mouth of the Oak Creek and thanks to Jackie Benka and Debbie Pizur for creating the letter of concern which was sent on Jan. 24th to Benjamin Benninghoff, Natural Resources Basin Supervisor at Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Debbie Pizur will look for an article that addresses the PCB issue that could relate to the Oak Creek in Grant Park. The article could be posted on our website or Facebook page.

**FoGP and South Milwaukee Historical Society**

We discussed a suggestion for little plaques/markers around Grant Park, marking historical locations. FoGP and South Milwaukee Historical Society could work together on raising money for the plaques/markers. The Lions Club could be asked for assistance also. The cost needs to be determined. Depending on cost, perhaps one plaque/marker per year could be put up. A suggestion was made to use a material other than metal, which is subject to theft for its value.

**March 18 United Way/MATC Staff Volunteers** The volunteers need 4 hours of time. Betsy volunteered to lead up to 18 people on March 18, 9 am – 1 pm, meeting at the tennis courts parking lot. Pam, Jody, and Rick also volunteered to help oversee the volunteers. In addition to outside activities, cleaning inside at Wulff Lodge could be included. We may want to suggest that volunteers bring a change of clothes for both inside and/or outside activities.

**Membership Drive Packets for Neighborhood** About 250 of the informational membership packets are at the printer, costing around \$1 each for a total of approximately \$250.

**Tree Planting** Caterpillar offered to donate small trees for us to plant in Grant Park during the month of May. Betsy will contact Caterpillar to accept the offer of Red Oak and Burr Oak. We discussed accepting 100-200 trees. It was noted that we should use small colored stakes to support the saplings. There would be an additional cost for the stakes.

**Suburban Soles**

Brian Morrison informed us of the exciting upcoming Suburban Soles schedule and financial needs. Up to \$600 was approved by members present to support the Suburban Soles events, to be broken down as follows:

\$75 Donations:

May 17th event - MCP Natural Areas

June 14th event - Mequon Nature Preserve

September 27th event - Wisconsin DNR for Wildlife Education

Payment Checks needed of \$100:

May 31st - Payable to Michael Timm

July 12th - Payable to Delisa White

Approximately \$150 for printing

May 3	Among the Wild Flowers	Sierra Dawkins
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May 17	the Forest Awakens	Katlyn Plier
May 31	Tides They Are a Changin'	Michael Timm
Jun 14	Lichen the Little Things	Jamie Schiesel
Jun 28	Wonder & Wander Along the Water	Jan Marsh & Alice Thompson
Jul 12	Bloom Where You Are Planted	Delisa White
Jul 26	Shoreline Memories	Nels Munson
Aug 9	Natures Superheros	Brooke Gilley
Aug 23	Together is How We Grow	Jeff Veglahn
Sep 13	Leave it to Trees	Mike Wendt
Sep 27	Meet Your Wild Neighbors	Dianna Robinson

Debbie Pizur will investigate obtaining a grant from WE Energies for Suburban Soles.

Thank you, Brian, for all of your work once again to make these outings a reality.

**Weedout Dates, Saturdays in May**

Garlic Mustard: May 2 (Oak Creek HS Track Team); May 9, 16, & 23; Raindate is May 30.

Burdock: June 13

**South Milwaukee Spring Market Day**

Sunday, March 29, 9 am – 2 pm at the SM High School Commons.

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

Respectfully submitted by

Lynn Crawford