

Friends of Grant Park
Meeting Minutes May 13, 2021

Attending: Sue Hebner, Bill Saase, Debbie Pizur, Lynn Meidam, Patrick Hintz, Brian Morrison, Pam Uhrig, Deb Wilhelm, Jan Marsh, Rick Kaiser, Betsy Abert, Lynn Crawford, Jody Johnson

Welcome Bill S. as a new member of FOGP. He is on the board of Root Pike Watershed Initiative Network, but is focused on Oak Creek watershed.

Security – nothing to report

Treasurer's report – see attached. Brian M. moved to accept report; Lynn M. seconded. Motion passed. Lynn C. made a motion to dedicate \$20,000 to our erosion protection steps project near Wil-o-way. Pam seconded. Motion passed. A lengthy discussion was had about Parks administration's hold on the project affecting a freeze on the earmarked funds. County Parks landscape architects did not approve the plans, and there was some miscommunication with Parks, timing of project, and a requirement for railings to be added. To receive matching funds, an equal amount must be set aside in our account. Bill S. kindly offered help looking for funds, as he had done with the Root Pike group. FOPG needs to revise plans to include railings and to have parks architects approve step plans so we can seek additional funding. Lynn M. amended the motion to earmark the funds for 2 years; Jan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Oak Creek HS environmental group to work May 15th, to meet in tennis court parking lot. The group will be broken up into smaller groups of 10 and assigned to different areas. Dame's rocket and garlic mustard are targeted. Betsy was asked to write up a small rundown of the day's activities. Bug spray needs to be purchased.

A large volunteer group from Eaton consisting of 75 - 100 employees will work on Saturday, June 5th. Groups of 10 to 15 will be assigned to different areas to pick up litter, and other tasks.

FOGP Calendar 2022 is in the works. Sue H. has graciously agreed to design the calendar. Still working on getting some photos in a large enough file size. There is some concern about where we will be able to sell the calendars.

Suburban Soles – Congratulations to Brian M. as Parks is recommending programs like this to other friends groups as "best practices" advice. The first walk of the season had 26 people attend, took in \$55 in donations, and 18 people said they were interested in volunteering. He also sold 1 t-shirt.

Eagle Scout Project – Lynn C. moved to give \$700 toward Emilee Herbeck's project; Jan seconded. The motion passed. Emilee's project will be to build new split rail fences along the ridge above the beach.

We were contacted by Laura Buska at Root Pike Watershed Initiative Network to work with high school student volunteers from Urban Underground in Grant Park. Students are available afternoons only Monday thru Thursday, June 21 - 24, July 26 - 29, July 5 & 6, and August 2,3,5. Work dates yet to be determined.

Another possibility is to work with Root Pike group to do WeedOut on Oak Creek west of Mill pond. A suggestion was made to find ways to encourage Friends of the Mill Pond and Restore the Lagoon to collaborate on this activity.

Brian asked for help to start a friend's group for Bender Park. Some suggestions were made on first steps. Those interested in furthering this effort were asked to contact Brian, and perhaps form an exploratory committee.

If the weather cooperates, our next meeting will be held June 10th, outdoors, in-person, at the home of Deb Pizur. Details will be sent prior to the meeting along with the agenda. In the event of rain, we will meet at Area 5A brown pavilion.

Respectfully submitted by
Debbie Pizur