

Attending: Jody Johnson, Jan Marsh, Lynn Crawford, Lynn Meidam, Debby Pizur, Betsy Abert, Rick Kaiser, Pam Uhrig, Brian Morrison

WI-DNR game wardens are working in collaboration with SMPD in checking for fishing permits along Oak Creek below the dam for anglers.

Treasurer's report: Park People account \$10,376.71; Guardian account \$6,786.25. Total funds \$17,400.25. Lynn is now our sole treasurer; former co-treasurers Don Lawson and Rob Vajagich have signed off the accounts. Anyone wishing to be a co-treasurer should contact Lynn. She also presented us with a draft annual budget. We discussed ways to improve the draft. An annual budget is required for many grant application documents.

Final details for Trek 'n Treat were discussed. Pam Uhrig has 15 education stations planned for the trails; we have treats for 200 kids. More volunteers are needed! Recent gift card donations came from Target and Walmart. Pam and Jody Johnson were able to utilize the display case in the foyer of the SM Library to highlight the event. Check it out!

Rick Kaiser reported that the location for placement of the large ravine sign has been confirmed by sign manufacturer TAPCO and Parks. They will check for underground utility lines; no problem is anticipated. FOGP will need to pay for the entire bill, and then submit that amount to parks to receive matching funds reimbursement.

Betsy is once again taking steps to apply for a Southeast Wisconsin Watershed Trust matching grant and hoping for Park's blessing to address erosion on the slope above the foot bridge installed across from Will-o-Way lodge. She proposes a project that will protect infrastructure by using steps and revegetation to stabilize the adjacent slope plus a small detention basin to capture runoff before it runs down the slope to the stream. The deadline for application is Nov. 1st. Lynn volunteered to assist. FOGP received a matching grant from SWWTR in 2011 to restore an eroded ravine slope after the 2010 floods.

The Eagle Scout project kiosks are sustaining frequent damage from vandals. Cracked plexiglass and graffiti are most common. FOGP has replaced some of the plexiglass. Parks had indicated that they were replacing all of the kiosks due to the persistent damage, but Rick Kaiser protested to parks administration. As of this meeting, he was told they will not remove the Grant Park kiosks. It is unclear if they will be replaced in upcoming years. It was noted that some new fundraising kiosks have appeared on the Oak Leaf Trail sponsored by Wheel & Sprocket. A suggestion was proposed that if FOGP purchased supplies, could the scouts do the repairs? Jody Johnson will forward this suggestion to the local scout masters.

An Oct. 6th Weed-out had only 2 participants, but Betsy received word that United Way had assembled 300 volunteers from MATC available for projects on Tuesday, Oct. 30th. Betsy asked for 30 volunteers from that pool. Rick Kaiser expressed frustration that we need to find a regular source of volunteers for a one day workday, perhaps from local churches or local businesses.

Betsy suggested we need to find a major Seven Bridges fund donor for needed repairs.

Lynn Crawford reported 10 bluebirds and 15 tree swallows fledged from bird houses along the golf course fairways. A couple boxes were vandalized and disturbed this year. Repairs are needed for some of the houses.

In the "Need for Wall Display Space Department", FOGP has received numerous plaques: one from WI Ornithological Society and one from Mayor Brooks honoring our work to establish South Milwaukee as a Bird City; a Friends Group of the Year plaque from the Park People in

2013; and a plaque from YouthWorks for our work with young volunteers. We would like to display these awards, and will ask for permission to mount them in the golf clubhouse.

Our FOGP Historic Calendar sales are going well. Proceeds so far are \$232. Marie's Floral is also selling our calendar.

We concluded the Suburban Soles guided nature walks were a great success. Let Brian Morrison know if you have suggestions for 2019 season facilitators or routes.

Jody inquired about inviting Julia Robson to present the *Walk to Sustain the Great Lakes* film from her 2018 adventure. Betsy noted that the film is still in production.

YouthWorks has asked for an estimate of our needs for next year. Could we use volunteers for an extra day per week? The program starts the last 2 weeks of June, all of July, and the first 2 weeks of August. Facilitators are needed. Betsy suggested asking Brian Russart, Natural Areas coordinator, if he could provide interns to facilitate. On our "to-do" list: painting steps and raking gravel at Wulff Lodge; removing invasive porcelain berry vine and garlic mustard; trash on beach; maintaining Will-o-way gardens; and of course, fortifying the brush fences along the top of the bluff. Betsy will facilitate two days a month. Jan Marsh volunteered to be a substitute facilitator. We need to cover 8 workdays each month if we agree to 2 volunteer days per week. As a reminder, facilitators are on hand mostly to instruct volunteers and troubleshoot.

Rick ordered additional tree saplings to be purchased along with the bulk order from parks. The order should arrive in 2 or 3 weeks and will need to be planted ASAP.

We tabled discussion about plans for 2019 Pullin' o' the Green fundraiser, and will take it up next month.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, Nov. 8th in the golf course clubhouse. The public is always welcome.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson
Temporary consensus chair and secretary