

Attending: Steve Schreiter, Lois Schreiter, Gene Johansen, South Milwaukee Crime Prevention Officer Tory Shields, Sue Hibben, Jody Johnson, Pam Uhrig, Lynn Crawford, Jackie Benka, Debbie Wilhelm, Lynn Meidam, Betsy Abert, Rick Kaiser, Don Lawson, Jan Marsh, Rob Vajagich

Officer Shields responded to our query about possible gang-tagging activity at the beach parking lot by saying he doesn't believe it's gang related. Younger kids are suspected. He reviewed recent incidents reported in the park: the last complaint was Oct. 4th; prior to that, March 23rd. Last criminal damage: Sept. 20. Officers patrolled the park 36 times in the last month, 2 or 3 times per day. Five young men were caught trying to enter the park with a case of beer. A \$187 citation was written.

A concerned resident trying to prevent littering of religious pamphlets and graffiti in the park was ironically issued a summons for a restraining order banning him from the park. After a court hearing, the case fortunately was dismissed. This is a member of the community with long-standing love of the park, who exercised his right to challenge someone violating park rules.

The attempted sexual assault in Grant Park is still under investigation.

Treasurer's report: Lynn Crawford submitted a balance sheet showing \$7,916.27 in our account with the Park People. We also have a local credit union account in South Milwaukee showing a balance of \$2,550.71.

Our calendars sales are going well at Parkway Floral. To date, we have earned \$709 (200 calendars sold). In addition, Mayor Erik Brooks bulk ordered 190 calendars to present to his commissioners. We will also be selling them at our South Milwaukee Winter market booth.

Trek 'n Treat: 27 South Milwaukee High School students volunteered to assist. The South Milwaukee Historical Society will have a station highlighting 105 fun things to do in Grant Park. In area 5 pavilion, the DNR representative will have animal pelts and bones; Rita Wiskowski will talk about birds in the park; kids can decorate a small pumpkin or rock; refreshments will include popcorn and apple cider. We will also have a FOGP information table and first aid station.

Fall Weed Out is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 15th. Due to a cross country meet, the main entrance to the park will be closed. Our group will focus on the Wil-o-Way area. We have 10 volunteers coming from the Rotary group from WE Energies. New equipment is needed. We voted to spend \$100 on new loppers for the weed-out. Betsy will purchase, but we need to find a place to store the equipment.

Betsy reported that she is sharing Parks landscape architect Jim Ciha's drawings for the stairs by Wil-o-way Lodge with landscape contracting firms. In her estimation, the current design does not address runoff from the hillside to the creek below, but that that design element will be considered in planning and construction details.

An idea for our December 8th meeting is to have a community event in the clubhouse called "Meet the Photographers" whose work appears in our calendar. Three to four representative photographers would show and talk about their work and the technicalities of shooting wildlife and landscape images. Calendars would be offered for sale. Cookies and cider provided by FOGP. We all agreed it would be a unique event in keeping with our annual December forays into a bit more festivity. Perhaps invite the high school photography club?

Several members of FOGP attended the Public Input Session at Sheridan Park sponsored by Parks regarding the future of the park system. After a brief description of goals and the budget constraints, attendees asked questions. Several asked for more revenue for parks. County Executive Abele's proposed wheel tax may provide help with public transportation, freeing up more funds for parks.

During the winter months, when the golf course is closed, FOGP has to make arrangements to have the clubhouse opened for our meetings. This year, Parks may charge us for clubhouse use. We may wish to consider holding our meetings at another venue for the winter. Alternative locations will be explored.

Rick Kaiser mentioned that erosion is affecting some trails near Wulff Lodge and repairs will be needed near bridges in the ravine.

Our next meeting is November 10th.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson