

Attending: Don Lawson, Jackie Benka, Debby Pizur, Lynn Crawford, Keith Schulenburg, Betsy Abert, Sue Hibben, Ethan Brown from Alliance for the Great Lakes, Pam Uhrig, Jan Marsh, Milwaukee County Parks Natural Areas Manager Brian Russart, Rick Kaiser, Jody Johnson, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Deputy Dean Zirzow and another unidentified deputy.

The meeting location was changed in the beginning of the week, and every effort was made to inform membership of the temporary relocation to the SM Library.

Security: Present were two deputies from the County Sheriff's dept. Members were grateful for their presence and their input. It was brought to the group's attention that there continues to be a large volume of traffic going in and out of the park at night. Several cars have been identified using parking lot #2 frequently day and night as a meeting and drop off point. The deputy noted that many of the officers are working double shifts and there are not enough officers to serve the parks on a regular basis. There is also a lack of communication between the local, county and parks enforcement personnel. Citizens who notice unusual activity should make note of vehicle license plates and any other details that would help identify them to the police. Contact information of the local and county numbers were provided. It would be beneficial to the public to be aware of arrests and fines given out in the parks on a regular basis.

We met with Ethan Brown, representing Alliance for the Great Lakes. His organization is hoping to partner with local residents and community groups to protect and restore the ravines in SE Wisconsin, and the ravines in Grant Park in particular. Ethan hopes to hold a Shared Goals Ravine Symposium sometime in June, 2016. He is working to gather resources to support a restoration project including mapping the area with layers of the contours of the land, outfalls, storm sewers, footpaths, invasive species, etc. so that the whole picture can be viewed and studied.

Will Friends of Grant Park help? He has asked us to create a conversation with the community to gain insight to the problems there and new ideas and potential solutions to remedy them. Ethan will be in touch in the coming weeks.

Natural Areas Manager, Brian Russart spoke about county parks partnering with the Alliance to find resources to benefit the Oak Creek watershed. He told us about an upcoming BioBlitz, sponsored by Milwaukee Public Museum, scheduled for June 10 & 11 in Grant Park: a 24 hour inventory of all life in the park. Scientists and surveyors will be conducting the study, and the public is welcome to attend.

Keith Schulenburg asked the FOGP to help with the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Drive. FOGP gains from increased exposure in the community. We chose Dec. 12th as a day most were available to work. The location is at the Pick 'n Save on S. Chicago Ave. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Keith will be looking for volunteers to work in shifts.

Jan Marsh still has not received any word about funding for signage for the rain garden in the beach parking lot. She doesn't know if parks applied for the grant money that they were entitled to. Betsy reported that she's been in contact with Jake in regards to taking down the orange snowfence in the lower beach lot.

Rick Kaiser and Jody Johnson briefly reported on their conversation with a Channel 12 reporter prior to the meeting's start about the upcoming Gun Club closure.

Our fundraising/event committee (Pizur, Benka, Uhrig) had scant time left to report. Debby Pizur passed out raffle tickets (2 tickets to a Milwaukee Bucks game plus a signed mini-basketball) to all members present. Members are encouraged to sell these by Friday, Dec. 4th. The drawing will be held at the close of the Winter Market in South Milwaukee on Saturday, Dec. 5th.

Pam Uhrig brought the new reusable shopping bag with the Seven Bridges logo. All agreed that it is a very nice bag. It will be for sale before Christmas and at the Winter Market for \$10 to cover cost of production and materials and provide a small donation to the group.

Jackie Benka and Pam Uhrig created a calendar of proposed events with the goal of showing monthly activities (excluding July & August). Time did not permit a more detailed discussion from the committee. We will discuss at our next meeting.

Our next meeting is on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. Please see the upcoming agenda for a special event being offered right before that meeting from 5:45 to 6:25. (it'll be a hoot!)

Respectfully submitted by

Jody Johnson (with help from Pam Uhrig)