

Attending: Pam Uhrig, Keith Schulenburg, Jody Johnson, Sue Hibben, Annemarie Adsen, Don Lawson, Debby Pizur, Rita Wiskowski, Lynn Crawford, Jackie Benka, Betsy Abert, Debbie Wilhelm, South Milwaukee Police Investigator Mike Hill, Bill Kurtz, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Dept. Deputy Travis Thompson

Investigator Hill reported two instances of graffiti, one at the beach house and another at a bridge in the 7 Bridges area. One individual was apprehended, fined \$1295 for the graffiti plus another fine totaling \$1500. It may be gang related.

Our fundraising booth at the South Milwaukee Winter Market raised the following: \$137 - raffle tickets; \$55 - Garlic Mustard Picker CDs; \$10 - trail maps; and \$60 for tote bags. An arrangement with artist Colleen McCarrier to sell her Han-Made brand of collectibles would net FOGP 50% of her merchandise sold. We sold \$90 of merchandise, so FOGP keeps \$45. Lessons learned for next year's market: too many booths, choices, competition. Maybe a better opportunity would be Evening on the Avenue or South Milwaukee's Garden Walk.

A new event on our 2016 Calendar is the Trek & Treat, planned for Oct. 15th. Starting at Area #5, participants would receive a map directing them thru 7 Bridges where they will meet costumed FOGPers posing educational questions for a treat. A map for individuals with disabilities will also be available. Participants receive a reusable treat bag. Other activities include pumpkin carving and bingo. Wehr Nature Center may be interested in assisting us with this project.

Our group is in need of an active treasurer to account for expenses and donations, make reimbursements and make monthly reports at our meetings. Please contact Betsy Abert or Don Lawson if you can manage this responsibility.

The Christmas Bird Count will be Dec. 19, and Grant Park is included in a CBC circle reaching from Texas Ave. in Bayview to Bender Park in Oak Creek. Sponsored by the Audubon Society, this is the 116th year for the event. Contact Betsy if you wish to be a part of the count this year.

Debby Pizur applied for a grant from Walmart to restore the Wulff Lodge. They will notify us of their decision in 90 days. WE Energies also has grants available, although smaller amounts, but our group needs to be well established with a board of directors, financial statements, etc. to be considered.

FOGP will participate in the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Drive. Keith Schulenburg will schedule volunteers to ring bells at Walmart in South Milwaukee on Saturday, Dec. 12th.

The Alliance for the Great Lakes has asked FOGP to be a part of a shared goals meeting to address the Oak Creek watershed project for 2016 and to restore ravines within the watershed, specifically the ravine in Grant Park. Ethan Brown, from the Alliance, will work with Betsy on this and Jan Marsh volunteered to assist.

New to Grant Park is the bat house erected in the forestry field, and a new bird feeder at the area 2 parking lot. Persons willing to help stock the bird feeder are asked to avoid feeds containing millet and corn, which attract house sparrows; choose feeds with sunflower, safflower & peanuts.

A 3 or 4 mo. old female kitten abandoned in the park, has been spayed and tested for leukemia. Help Betsy find a home for this kitten.

A frisbee golf course has been proposed for Grant Park by Mayor Erik Brooks, and Supervisor Jason Haas among others. A meeting with Milwaukee County Parks Mike Wrench, Betsy Abert, Mayor Brooks and others was held. Tees for frisbee golf are concrete, and each hole requires a clear cut diameter of 10'. No permit has been approved for this, and it was suggested to locate the course on the Oak Creek Parkway instead of Grant Park to avoid losing trees.

We discussed the idea of holding a community forum in January to allow citizens a chance to voice their concerns to the candidates running for the office of County Executive. The primary is in February.

Thank you to Rob Vajagich for a generous donation of \$200 to FOGP; and to Annemarie Adsen for volunteering to be our Sunshine coordinator.

Now that the Cudahy Sportsmen's Club is closed, the FOGP website will change the "gun club issues" heading to "gun club history". Eventually, the material will be removed completely.

Persons wishing to submit a photo taken in Grant Park to be considered for publication in our 2017 Calendar should send them to Pam Uhrig no later than August, 2016. Photographer will receive a photo credit in the calendar. Calendars will be sold as a fundraiser.

Our next meeting will be Jan. 14th, 2016.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson