

Attending: Rick Kaiser, Debby Pizur, Jody Johnson, South Milwaukee Police Officer Chris Rohde, Rob Vajagich, Sue Hibben, Deb Wilhelm, Pam Uhrig, Betsy Abert

Security

Officer Rhodes reported finding graffiti in area 7. He invited us to a city-wide block watch meeting on March 23rd in the city hall council chambers. He also mentioned a future Meet & Greet, "Coffee with a Cop", for the neighborhood watch group organizers at a local coffee shop. (Date has subsequently been determined to be April 1 at Avenue Coffee Shop). When asked about a recent *Back the Blue* event that took place in Grant Park, he said that he and a fellow officer visited the event starting point, which seemed a bit disorganized, but nothing unusual was noticed. He said the proceeds were intended to go to the veteran's Honor Flight program, though it was reported by other attendees that fundraising buckets were marked as going towards a Military K-9 fund and not the advertised Honor Flight fund. He was not aware of the fire that was lit on a slab of concrete near area 7 pavilion.

Treasurers Report

We have \$9,753.79 in our Park People account and \$3,699.80 at the Credit Union. A \$200 donation was received from the Garlic Mustard Pickers and deposited for a total of \$13,453.59.

Wulff Lodge 100th Anniversary planning is underway. Wulff will be a stop on the SM Historical Society's Garden Tour on June 24th from 9 - 2 pm. The anniversary celebration runs from 4 - 8 pm at Wulff Lodge. These tentative activities are planned:

- Invite local dignitaries: Director of Parks, John Dargle; County Executive Chris Abele; SM Mayor Eric Brooks
- Nels Munson will share historic home movies of the Wulff family
- A former resident will speak
- Boy Scout troop to tend bonfire for food offerings
- FOGP to sell goodie bags to make smores
- SM Municipal band; SM Middle School & High School classical quartet
- Sales of various FOGP merchandise
- Popcorn wagon (if available)

The next anniversary planning meeting will be April 12th, 5:30 pm at the South Milwaukee Library. All are welcome to volunteer. Encouraged, in fact!

FOGP received a complimentary invitation to attend the Milwaukee County Historical Society's annual dinner to recognize our event to celebrate Wulff Lodge's centennial anniversary. We appreciate the acknowledgement, but will decline attending. Table sponsorship for civic groups costs \$750.

We will have a booth at the South Milwaukee Spring Market, March 19th, from 9 - 3 pm at the SM High School. We will distribute an updated FOGP newsletter, flyers advertising the April 22nd beach cleanup, Weed-Out and Wulff Lodge anniversary information. We will also have FOGP tote bags for sale. Pam Uhrig offered to produce the flier.

Debby Pizur mentioned an opportunity presented at last month's SM Community & Business Assoc. meeting in the form of an app for smart phone users. If we participated, we could have our event "pop up" on the screen in real time as our event was taking place in the park. More information to come. Jody Johnson will attend the March meeting.

Rick Kaiser followed up on his suggestion to get contractors approved for fast track park repairs. Someone mentioned that Friends of the Mill Pond has such a list. He will contact them. Jake Klingforth recommended two current (but soon to retire) parks workers who may be interested in doing these jobs for us.

Jake also informed us by email that the pro shop upgrade is completed, though the bar area is not. Many trees were lost during the recent windstorm including a giant white pine across from the Seven Bridges parking lot. Fencing erected 2 years ago, needs repairs due to treefalls. Jake will be talking to Milwaukee Job Corps about fixing the fence as well as installing metal hand railings next to the stairs leading to the beach, with the cost of materials being partially covered by parks. Another project for them to consider is the steps at Wulff Lodge.

We agreed that we will need parks assistance in covering the cost of the steps project near Wilo-way Lodge. Evidently, FOGP would need to pay the entire cost of the project, and then if approved, be reimbursed by parks for half the cost.

There are a few local organizations willing to sponsor park improvements. We agreed on three such projects needing funding:

- Railing down to Seven Bridges ravine (parks has funding for this)
- Seven Bridges entry
- Accessibility for Seven Bridges main entry bridge

Weed-Out dates for Garlic Mustard removal are as follows (facilitators in parentheses): April 29th (Betsy), May 6 (Rob), 13 (Betsy), & 20 (Pam). In June, we will also schedule Burdock Buster days as follows: June 3 (Betsy) & 10 (Betsy).

Don Lawson has notified us that he is formally stepping down as chair of the FOGP. He intends to continue helping with the Weed-Out. We will continue to make decisions by consensus until a replacement can be found. Please contact Betsy Abert or Jody Johnson if you have a candidate in mind. Jody will act as contact person in the interim. Jodyjohnson@wi.rr.com.

Debby Pizur informed us that her idea to seek a grant from the Packer Foundation is moot; the Park People (our fiscal agent) has already applied.

FOGP agreed to purchase 15 - 20 sapling trees to be planted in October by Brian Russart's Natural Areas team.

Our next meeting will be held on April 13th, returning again to the Golf Course Clubhouse at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson