

Grant Park Watch / Friends of Grant Park Minutes August 11, 2016

Attending: Lynn Meidam, Sue Hibben, Lynn Crawford, Rita Wiskowski, Deb Wilhelm, Gene Johansen, Jackie Benka, Erin Napier, Keith Schulenburg, James Hogden, Annemarie Adsen, Don Lawson, South Milwaukee Police Officer Chris Rohde, Sue Hebner, Betsy Abert, Jody Johnson, Debby Pizur

Erin Napier invited us all to attend the 2nd meeting of the newly formed Grant Park District neighborhood watch on Monday, Aug. 22nd from 6:30 to 8 pm in the Grant Park golf course clubhouse. This meeting includes the South Milwaukee Police Department and featured guest Milwaukee County Supervisor David Sartori. The district includes homes bordered by Hawthorne Ave., Lake Drive, College Ave. and Chicago. New members are encouraged to register at NextDoor.com, selecting Grant Park district, as a way to communicate with the neighborhood network. Another neighborhood watch group formed by previous meeting attendee, Mike Moeller, is holding their first meeting at E.W. Luther School on Aug. 18th.

SM Police Officer Rohde shared information about the attempted sexual assault in Grant Park on July 12th. A detective is investigating, and speaking to a witness. Betsy Abert reported, 2nd hand, that excessive noise from a car's speaker system at the beach around 6:30 pm was audible well west on the parkway, suggesting "a live band" was playing at the beach. No reports were made to police, so no action was taken. There is no other criminal activity to report in the park.

Excessive speed and stop sign drive-throughs on Lake Drive and Park Avenue is still a concern. And southbound traffic near College Ave. and Lake Drive continues to be a safety issue due to speed. FOGP contacted South Milwaukee Engineer Kyle Vandercar requesting (again) a flashing stop sign at the intersection of Lake Dr. and Park Ave as well as intersection striping.

The weekend of July 13-14 will feature the Cudahy Kennel Club dog show in the park. Gates remain open all night in case of emergencies.

Landscaping plans have been draughted by Park's Landscape Architect, Jim Ciha, for steps to be installed midway between Wil-o-Way and Wulff Lodge. The proposed design features a limestone terrace and piers/columns, with stone steps leading down to the recently restored foot bridge. The design is elegant and in keeping with the footprint of parks stone design elements. It will eliminate the need for erosive slope egress to one of the park trails and bridges. The FOGP will need to raise matching grant funding of \$10K for this \$20 - \$30K project.

The Lake Michigan Trail Marathon will return Sunday, Sept. 4th, and FOGP will assist with staffing a hydration station for the runners. Interested volunteers can contact Pam Uhrig at (414) 764-0461 for more information and to volunteer for a two-hour shift. Interested runners can register online at http://lakemichiganmarathon.com/#register_content

Debby Pizur and Jackie Benka plan to attend the South Shore Friends Group meeting on Monday, Sept. 12 at 6:30 pm in Pulaski Park Pavilion. They will represent the Friends of Grant Park. Former Milwaukee County Supervisor Pat Jursik has requested the meeting.

FOGP will have a membership table at the South Milwaukee Farmers Market from 3 to 7 pm on Sept. 8, 15, and 22. Please contact Pam Uhrig if you are able to staff the table.

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As new members of the South Milwaukee Community and Business Association, FOGP earned \$75 in sales at Evening on the Avenue either through new members added, tote bags or raffle tickets sold. Thanks to Jan Marsh for donating the joining fee.

Rita Wiskowski, representing Friends of the Mill Pond, requested that persons supporting the dam at the mill pond send letters to members of Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (see below for addresses). This is a controversial topic currently being studied within the Oak Creek Watershed Plan. Some support dam removal for ecological and economic reasons, while many residents support retaining the dam and restoration of the Mill Pond to its historic place as an iconic community gathering/skating pond. It was suggested that FOGP not take a position, but that individuals are encouraged to send letters with their views pro or con by Aug. 31st.

Fall Weed-Out! dates have yet to be determined. Don Lawson will send out dates when set.

On Sunday, October 16, from 1-4pm, FoGP will host a Trek n Treat in the Ravines, featuring fun and educational stations that are intended to open kid's and families to the secrets of nature in our park while trek(trick) or treating. Fun activities for all, and opportunities to learn while having fun is the goal. More details will be posted on our website www.fogp.org and Facebook page, "Friends of Grant Park".

Our calendars are printed and they are BEAUTIFUL! They can be purchased at Parkway Floral for \$10 each, or two or more for \$9 apiece (cash or check only). They can also be ordered by mail: checks payable to Friends of Grant Park and adding \$1.50 per calendar for postage; mailed to 421 Hawthorne Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172. If we are so fortunate as to sell out, we can reorder but must allow 2 weeks time for printing and delivery. Thanks to graphic designer Sue Hebner, Pam Uhrig, Jackie Benka, Debby Pizur and Betsy Abert for their work to gather historic information, photos, and lists of events.

Finally, Sue Hebner asked our group to consider volunteering to help at the Blind Veterans Conference, Aug. 22 - 26 at the Hilton Hotel in Milwaukee. Volunteers are needed to meet and greet veterans as they arrive at the airport; as they navigate the conference at the hotel; and again after the conference concludes to assist the vets to board their flights home. Call Sue with any questions or to volunteer: (937) 390-3306, or email: shebner@sbcglobal.net.

Our next meeting will be held on September 8th.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson

Michael Hahn, Deputy Director SEWRPC
or Tom Slawski, Chief Biologist SEWRPC
or Laura Kletti, Environmental Engineer SEWRPC

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