

## Grant Park Watch /Friends of Grant Park Minutes Sept. 13, 2018

Attending: Jody Johnson, Susan Gresser, Chris Marifke, Jackie Benka, Jan Marsh, Tom Gardener, Lynn Crawford, Lynn Meidam, Brooke Gilley, Debby Pizur, Annemarie Adsen, James Davies, Grant Park Unit Coordinator Sean Kelly, Betsy Abert, Jim Hogden

There were no security issues discussed this month.

Our treasurer, Lynn C., reported a balance of \$17,416.92. Of that amount, \$6,791.25 is in our Guardian Credit Union account; \$10,625.67 is in our Park People account. An annual budget report was discussed; it would be challenging to do since our donations and fundraising are unpredictable requiring a more than rough estimate of our income. Lynn will search for a checking account that doesn't have a \$5 per check fee. Debby P. will help draft an annual budget.

Grant Unit Coordinator Sean Kelly filled us in on the latest park maintenance details. He expects the railing for Seven Bridges ravine to be tackled in the near future. Having received a \$40,000 grant for time and materials, he will meet with the county's lead carpenter to discuss completing the project. He hopes to enlist JobCorps to help with the construction. Any leftover materials would be used on the stairs.

A member asked Sean if FOGP volunteers could repaint the main entry bridge to Seven Bridges... Sean suspected he would need to get approval from the county's contracted painters.

Betsy reported that Natural Areas workers treated Porcelain Berry and Bittersweet near areas 7-8 and Will-o-Way following Forestry's mass removal of these invasives. Betsy joined the Natural Areas workers and some excellent volunteers from Trinity Lutheran Church removing (and relocating to the slopes) lots of Japanese Tree Lilacs.

The Seven Bridges BBQ on August 23rd was sold out, had great weather, and clean up afterward was minimal. This was NOT a FOGP event, although FOGP is listed as a partner.

Trek 'n Treat plans are in full swing. Held on Sunday, Oct. 14th, set up begins at 11:30 am. Brooke Gilley volunteered to check with Wehr Nature Center for loans of specimens for nature stations. Those wishing to volunteer to work that day should contact Pam Uhrig at (414) 764-0461. More volunteers are wanted for this event.

Historic Grant Park Calendar for 2019 is printed and available for purchase. A small misprinted double image was noted on the November page. We voted to drop price to \$10 per calendar due to quality issues (cracked ink on fold of some calendars). Calendars will be for sale at Avenue Coffee, Parkway Floral and Serendipitous Design. We still need to print 8.5"x11" flyers. No one knew if postcards were printed.

Our fundraising committee is researching a different venue for Pullin' o' the Green fundraising party. Some guests at last March's event wistfully said the party should be held in the park again. Pam Uhrig contacted parks administration to ask about Grant clubhouse use. We discussed the various costs associated with renting the clubhouse, and we were informed that we would NOT be able to use the kitchen there. Pam has been unsuccessful trying to contact the manager of Will-o-Way. The committee wants to change the event to drinks and hors d'oeuvres plus music (instead of a dinner party). Hors d'oeuvres could be made in advance by volunteers in a licensed kitchen somewhere.

We will partner with Alliance for the Great Lakes for a beach clean up scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 15th for the Seven Bridges trail beach. Join us between 9 am and noon at 5A parking lot.

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Alas, our attempts to install a beautiful full color interpretive sign in the ravine are stymied by a chain of bureaucracy at the manufacturer (TEPCO) and also at parks. Please hold.

Fall Weed-Out! will be Saturday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> and October 6th. Buckthorn along the bike path will be targeted and/or Japanese Tree Lilac. Starting at 9 am, meeting location TBA.

Brian Morrison emailed rough drafts of a membership letter and tri-fold brochure for FOGP. More work needs to be done, but the members approved and voted to charge new members a \$10 suggested donation/year (in kind donation accepted). The benefit of a larger membership would be for grant writing purposes as well as contact information for networking. Brian's email also suggested a leaflet insert for donors to "Sponsor a Park Improvement Project."

FOGP will research the idea of requesting the county ban cigarettes in all county parks, following recent studies revealing toxicity in cigarette butts. James Davies searched the state statutes and determined that local government can ban smoking as long as specific areas are set aside to allow it. Enforcement would be tough, though the concept is interesting as a means of raising awareness of the danger and mess that cigarette butts pose. Betsy, James, Annemarie and Jody volunteered to form a study group and report back in February.

The South Milwaukee Library is proposing a mural be painted in the upstairs children's department. The artist's mock up drawing is of the entry to the main bridge at Seven Bridges. Jody Johnson proposed that the FOGP donate a portion of the cost to the library. The members approved unanimously, and voted to donate no more than \$500.

We had an update from our Will-o-Way master gardeners, Susan Gresser and Chris Marifke. They have deservedly secured a spot in the June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 South Milwaukee Garden Tour. Chris is planning a large butterfly garden, and hopes to have day lillies and coneflowers donated. Someone suggested a lockbox for donations... It was suggested that all take a tour through this beautifully renovated area behind the Wil-o-Way building.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 11th in the golf course clubhouse. Volunteers are always welcome.

Respectfully submitted by  
Jody Johnson  
*Temporary* consensus chair and secretary