

Grant Park Watch / Friends of Grant Park Minutes September 14, 2017

Attending: Betsy Abert, Keith Schulenburg, Debby Pizur, Jody Johnson, Jackie Benka, Mark & Deb Manske, Lynn Crawford, Pam Uhrig, Lynn Meidam, Debbie Wilhelm, Jan Marsh, Bill Kurtz

Park Watch / Security:

It was noted that Chief Ann Wellens is retiring from the South Milwaukee Police Department.

Around security issues, damage was done to the bluebird houses this summer on the golf course as reported by Lynn Crawford.

Treasurer's report:

Guardian Credit Union balance \$3,907.56

(includes \$57 from Wulff Lodge concession sales, \$19 from Evening on the Avenue donations; less \$100 in support of Walk to Sustain our Great Lakes)

Park People balance \$10,012.24

(includes \$500 donation from Caterpillar less \$40 Park People fees (\$500 - 40=\$460)

Total \$13,919.80

Our treasurer contacted The Park People regarding Newaukee and Longrun Athletics' promised donations; as of the meeting no donations had been made. We will contact them directly in mid October if we have not heard from them.

Our 2018 Friends of Grant Park Calendar project is proceeding, according to Betsy. Sue Hebner has much done but still needs a few photos submitted from photographers along with text. If you have photos taken in Grant Park that you think are calendar quality, contact Sue at shebner@sbcglobal.net.

Trek 'n Treat is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 15th, from 1 - 4 pm at area 5A in the park. FOGP will be advertising the event at the South Milwaukee Farmer's Market on both Sept. 28th and Oct. 5th. **Volunteers are still needed!** Please contact Pam at (414) 764-0461 to inquire about volunteering. Betsy will pick up a board with animal furs from the DNR.

Our proposed signs for the ravine have been approved by Parks! Now the proposal moves before the county board committee for approval. The request for matching funds from Parks should be approved.

Rick Kaiser has volunteered to apply for a grant from Southeast Wisconsin Watershed Trust. We need to identify an appropriate project.

Change the date to December 14th during our monthly meeting for an open house for the renovation-in-process at the Horace Fowle Homestead (Golf Course Clubhouse).

Weed-Out! will take place on the last Saturday in September, 9/30; and two in October, 10/7 and 10/21. Rick and Betsy met with Natural Areas technicians to identify species for removal. We need pools of volunteers (age 15 or over) from high schools, parishes, congregations, community colleges, and businesses. We could use 12- 25 volunteers per Saturday. And, we need volunteers from FOGP to facilitate.

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Lynn Crawford reported 15 bluebirds and 14 tree swallows fledged from our bluebird houses along the fairways of the golf course. Successful fledging, as mentioned earlier in the meeting, was impacted by vandalism. We are part of the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin.

The 7 Bridges BBQ was sold out prior to the event, with 300 tickets sold. It was reportedly well organized and very cool. A bit of rain put a damper on the event, but they proceeded. Jake Klingforth reported that cleanup the next morning took extra time, which would be expected.

We agreed that recycling is the right thing to do, and we should see to it that containers are available and emptied periodically. Keith Schulenburg contacted Jake Klingforth to determine the number and location of recycling containers. Jake does not have any additional containers available, although a dumpster dedicated to recycling is available. What's missing is someone to separate the recycling from the regular trash.

Debby Pizur presented the group's priorities as determined at our July meeting. Weed-Out topped the list, followed by communication with the public, ravine health, park beautification and history. Additional areas needing attention are membership, erosion issues, and fundraising.

Jackie Benka asked if FOGP would consider purchasing hanging flower baskets for the clubhouse next year. The Garden Club used to purchase these, but did not this year. The June-planted boxes around the park apparently were watered by park staff and survived, though Pam reported that the areas she had planted around the golf course clubhouse were not attended to and failed to our disappointment.

A suggestion was made to include information on our website and Facebook page about wildlife in the park such as coyotes, turkeys, and blue herons, as well as rescue information for the Wisconsin Humane Society if injured wildlife is found in the park.

Another suggestion was to include an educational component in our meetings. Betsy will inquire with Julia Robson and Alyssa about doing a Walk to Sustain our Great Lakes presentation at our November meeting. They are currently about 3/4 of the way along the route.

Jody Johnson will get quotes for replacing the FOGP main entrance sign with a light weight, corrugated plastic printed announcement board.

Jan Marsh again agreed to donate the fee for membership in the South Milwaukee Community & Business Association. We tip our hats! Sue Hebner will attend the next luncheon.

The idea to plant a sugar maple or oak tree in honor of Don Lawson's years of commitment to the park is still waiting for action. We agreed to spend \$300 towards purchase of a tree.

Bill Kurtz informed us that a new reporter, Erik Hanley, will cover South Milwaukee NOW. We should contact him with any news about the park.

Our next meeting is October 12th, at 6:30 pm in the Horace Fowle homestead..(Clubhouse).

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson, Secretary and Interim Chair
Friends of Grant Park

www.fogp.org

Facebook: Friends of Grant Park