

Grant Park Watch / Friends of Grant Park Minutes Sept. 8, 2016

Attending: Keith Schulenburg, Jody Johnson, Pam Uhrig, Lynn Crawford, Erin Napier, Deb Haley, Jackie Benka, Debby Pizur, Lynn Meidam, Betsy Abert, Rick Kaiser, Don Lawson, Jan Marsh, Annemarie Adsen

Erin Napier informed us about the new Grant Park District neighborhood watch group, encompassing a 4 square mile area adjacent to the park bordered by Lake Drive, College Ave., Chicago Ave. and Hawthorn Ave. Neighborhood watch signs will be coming after the third meeting (Sept. 19th at 6:30 pm in the golf course clubhouse) to post in member's windows. Register with the group online at NextDoor.com, Grant Park District. The South Milwaukee Police Department will be posting local crime reports on the site on a weekly basis.

We discussed a suggestion that the name "Grant Park Watch" is redundant and confusing now that another Grant Park District neighborhood watch has been formed. We decided that Grant Park Watch accurately covers the park itself, but that the sign at the park entrance is confusing (Park Watch meeting this week...) and should be changed to reflect our broader identity, to Friends of Grant Park. Since both groups are concerned about security and vandalism, Erin Napier suggested that the Grant Park District group may be willing to assist with fundraising for new security equipment for the park.

Our treasurer, Don Lawson, reported that we have \$2,237.00 in our petty cash account. This does not reflect the additional monies held with the Park People. We voted to add Lynn Crawford as a co-treasurer.

County Parks Landscape Architect Jim Ciha has completed the drawings for the steps near Wulff Lodge & Wil-o-Way and will provide them shortly. Jackie Benka mentioned that she faced hesitancy from potential donors to fund this project due to its low visibility and suggested a more prominent project would be easier to secure funding for in the future.

Did you know that 7 Bridges trail is listed on the site TravelWisconsin.com as one of the 17 most beautiful places in Wisconsin!

Wulff Lodge now has beautiful planted flower beds. Betsy purchased \$100 worth of plants at the end of the season for the beds prepared by Deb and Jackie; we will reimburse her for her expenses.

Trek 'n Treat (Oct. 16th, 1 - 4 pm) flyers are being handed out at community events. More flyers will be printed and sent home with elementary school kids. Volunteers are needed as we will have 20 stations along the trails, another 10 stations along the handicap access trail, and volunteers back in pavilion 5 to sell cider and popcorn, and facilitate several activities. Pam Uhrig has contacted Project Unify Club at the high school seeking volunteers. We are seeking donations from local businesses. Please contact Pam if you know of a Halloween treat (not only candy) with a nature/fall/pumpkin theme.

Fall Weed-Out dates are October 1st & 15th at 9 a.m., meeting at area 1 parking lot by the tennis courts. We work until noon, but we encourage any and all to come even if for only an hour. This is an adult volunteer effort.

Lynn Crawford has tended the bluebird houses dotting the golf course this summer. She said that 12 bluebirds fledged this season! Additionally, though native Tree Swallows also fledged

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young from these boxes, Lynn and Betsy waged war on chronic English House Sparrow incursions.

The Lake Michigan Trail Marathon was Sunday, Sept. 6th; our group staffed a hydration table. In 2015, there were 500 runners participating. This year there were 700. The weather was perfect!

The Oak Creek Watershed planning meeting was Aug. 30th. Jan Marsh attended, and said it was well attended (60 people) and designed to encourage participation of the attendees, with large maps of the entire watershed. People were invited to pinpoint areas of concern in the watershed, such as runoff from parking lots or industrial sites, etc. SEWRPC wanted public input BEFORE they were too far along in the planning.

The city of South Milwaukee has posted plans for the South Milwaukee Idea which includes plans for a Beer Garden, permanent farmers market, street landscaping and apartments, all in the area where the current farmers market stands.

Our next meeting is October 13th.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson