

Attending: Debby Pizur, Jitka Hanakova, Dave Sutton, Susan Tangen, Jackie Benka, Sue Hibben, Debbie Wilhelm, Diane, John Rapant, Milwaukee County Supervisor Pat Jursik, Lynn Crawford, Rick Kaiser, Keith Schulenburg, Jan Marsh, Annemarie Adsen, Don Lawson, Jody Johnson, Betsy Abert

We suggested the meeting begin with news from Supervisor Pat Jursik instead of security issues. She affirmed that the Oak Leaf trail repave and widening project, including a proposed egress from Lake Drive, is scheduled to begin in late spring to early summer. The issue was first raised by a neighbor of the park, a parent with small children unable to safely enter the park for lack of a safe pedestrian access to the Oak Leaf Trail. The county's landscape architects will determine the best egress, though it was thought that the north side of the Park Avenue/Lake Drive intersection was to be the choice. The trail will be widened, and portions of the trail will be straightened out, with some being brought closer to the road.

Sup. Jursik informed us that Ferch's is applying for a permit to provide concessions at Grant Park Beach. The Parks, Energy & Environment Committee of the county board is scheduled to approve the permit application next Tuesday (April 14). The application includes plans to install volleyball courts, and use of a beach comb to clean the beach sand under them.

Another activity coming to Grant Park from June 16 - 28 is the Sprecher Traveling Beer Garden, to be located in the Area 5 shelter. More details will be available soon. The beer garden will also travel to Sheridan Park July 1 - 12; Falk Park Aug. 12 - 23; and Greene Park Aug. 12 - 23.

News from Parks regarding accessibility is a positive response to long-time concerns of our group and others: the bathrooms in the 5A pavilion will be improved (in house) to comply with ADA standards before the arrival of the Traveling Beer Garden. Don agreed to send a letter of appreciation to Parks Director John Dargle for upgrading the restrooms there. Volunteers are sought to help clean/paint after construction. If interested, volunteers may contact Unit Coordinator Matt Collins, at (414) 218-4111 between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Regarding the proposed relocation of the Cudahy Sportsmen's Club to a new site in Warnimont Park, Sup. Jursik reported this as "rumors" from club members. She reports that she has received many negative responses from neighbors, including representatives from Aurora St. Luke's South Shore hospital who are "very upset". She reports that a petition has been circulating protesting the proposed relocation site with over 500 signatures as sponsored by the Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society. <https://www.change.org/p/preserve-warnimont-park>

The proposed cleanup of the old Manke dump site has been planned for over a year to take place this summer, and a temporary road will be used to facilitate that project. Apparently, it is not planned as an access road to a relocated gun club there, though it is shown on the club's website as such.

Sup. Jursik reported that the Oak Creek watershed will be studied next year by Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) in cooperation with South Milwaukee and Oak Creek within the watershed. Half of the \$1.5 m cost of the study will be paid by SEWRPC, with the remainder covered by Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) (82%), South Milwaukee and Oak Creek (18% or \$20,000 with the cost of repayment spread over 30 years). When Sup. Jursik was asked if the Mill Pond would be part of the study, she said a thorough watershed study will take place first, with the collective contributing factors of land use,

erosion, pollutant loads, stormwater management etc. detailed, prior to action plans being developed. The cost of testing for contamination and potential dredging of the siltation are estimated in the neighborhood of \$750,00 to \$1 m. The Wisconsin DNR has ordered a dam gate to be fixed, but will likely get a 3 yr. extension.

Security:

Concern was expressed over a recent homicide investigation adjacent to Grant Park. A number of attendees suggested the crime is still in the investigative phase, but that it is not thought to be related to park use.

Tire tracks damaging to turf have been noted recently in the park. It was suggested by one of our members that if we see a vehicle in the park covered in fresh mud, to get the license plate number and forward it to SMPD; there may be a connection.

Cameras at the 5A pavilion were vandalized last year. Matt Collins has asked if we can replace them with 2 cameras contained in metal cages, costing about \$200. We voted yes to fund new cameras. Don will talk to Matt Collins about this. (note: this was subsequently communicated to Matt)

In the interest of replacing recently removed ash trees and a large maple at the golf course, it was suggested that FOGP explore an affordable tree donation program. The Park People has a tree donation program set up for interested individuals willing to spend \$400 to \$500 for a more mature tree. Young trees of about 1" in diameter run \$100 to \$200 depending on type. Also suggested was the idea of coordinating with Americorps crews to install new trees when they are working in the park. This will be looked at more thoroughly with parks personnel.

Our April 18 Beach Cleanup is approaching fast. Flyers have been sent to the South Milwaukee Middle School, High School, Oak Creek High School, Zion, and Divine Mercy. We are offering a \$50 reward to any school group that totals the most volunteer hours for either the beach cleanup or any of the WeedOut! work days in May. Don asked for volunteers to assist with WeedOut! to help coordinate the students/volunteers that show up. Pam, Betsy and Annemarie volunteered to help on May 2nd; Lynn on May 16th; and Jody on May 30th. If you are able to help Don out on May 9th, please let him know.

A motion to extend the lease for the Cudahy Sportsmen's Club by three 3-yr extensions was again removed from the agenda by the chair of the Parks, Energy & Environment Committee of the county board of supervisors. Sup. Jursik agreed that the lease extension request was a dead issue.

Related to concerns about lead shot deposited in Lake Michigan, Jody presented research of lead levels in Milwaukee County lakeshore communities with water quality reports measured in parts per billion (ppb) for the following: Shorewood 4.2 ppb; Milwaukee 8.2 ppb; Cudahy 13 ppb; South Milwaukee 7.5 ppb; and Oak Creek 3.6 ppb. Given the higher levels found in Cudahy's water, the question was raised: could an estimated 72 tons of lead shot deposited in Lake Michigan have any effect on the lead levels in their water supply? Concern was expressed that the work plan for environmental cleanup at the Cudahy Sportsmen's Club does not include any testing or sampling of the lakebed.

Another thing we talked about was upcoming Eagle Scout projects. Betsy mentioned it was suggested a scout undertake a pergola (overhead structure) at the new brick patio near the playground. The scout would be coming to us for financial support on that, but Betsy feels that this project and others may require more advanced architectural specifications and thinks it would be a touchy subject to suggest the scout take plans back to the drawing table. She is concerned that as a historic lakefront park, we undertake architectural projects with the assistance of the landscape architects on staff at Parks, and that the projects possess an element of not only historic connectivity with existing park structures, but that they are long-lived and safe. She suggested a series of steps above the new bridge at Wil-o-Way would heal a now eroding slope and mud-covered bridge as a possible scout endeavor.

NOTE A CHANGE IN MEETING SCHEDULE FOR MAY: The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 13th** at 6:30 p.m. to accommodate a special meeting with Parks, Law Enforcement, Neighbors and membership concerned about safety issues and after hours park use.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson