

Attending: Betsy Abert, Jan Marsh, Debby Pizur, Jackie Benka, Rick Kaiser, Lynn Crawford, Jody Johnson, Lynn Krenn, Joe Heffron, Mark & Deb Manske, Sue Hibben, Tom Gardner, Sierra & Wilson Dawkins, Debbie Wilhelm, Milwaukee County Supervisor David L. Sartori, Park People Executive Director Dawn St. George, Kathy Briesmeister, Nancy Wucherer

The presentation by Julia Robson was rescheduled for our January meeting. We did not have a security report to accommodate the planned presentation.

Treasurer's report: We have \$13,467.48 in our combined accounts.

We were joined by two attendees of a recent Master Naturalist program, Lynn Krenn and Joe Heffron, who wish to start a friends group for Warnimont Park in Cudahy. They were impressed by the diversity of plant species and the very unique ecosystems in the park. They envision meetings at the Kelly Sr. Center. Potential pools of possible members/volunteers: Birding clubs, hiking clubs, seniors, Dog Park members, etc. We also recommended starting a Weed-Out! program (that is how FOGP got started).

Rick Kaiser asked us to begin thinking of projects for next summer's YouthWorks volunteers. Arrangements have been made for their return! A list of projects should be submitted by early January. An additional supervisor is needed for a half day once/week.

We will be using brush cuttings from Weed-Out! to foil use of social trails on the bluffs. One last work day of Weed-Out! will take place Saturday, Nov. 11th, with volunteers meeting at the tennis courts parking lot at 1:30 pm.

Signage will elaborate why people need to stay on the trails. We are waiting for placement to be determined by parks, and installation cannot happen until next spring, so the signage will have to wait for spring.

Seventeen trees were purchased by FOGP at a cost of \$9 to \$12 each, for young trees 4' to 6' tall. Most have been planted by the natural areas staff. The remaining trees will go in the ground ASAP.

Friends of the Mill Pond members, Kathy Briesmeister & Nancy Wucherer, shared that the Holiday Tea scheduled for Dec. 2nd was already sold out. It's a very popular event.

Our December 14th monthly meeting will be shortened to accommodate an open house in the 125 year old clubhouse. Open to the public from 7 - 8 pm, we will feature hot apple cider and cookies, as well as self guided tours in the festively decorated clubhouse.

FOGP will participate in South Milwaukee's Festival of Trees event in the downtown market area. There is no cost to sponsor a tree. We are responsible to decorate the tree. The area will be lit, but individual trees will not have lights. A group of volunteers strategized how our tree should be decorated, with both native and invasive plants from the park. A gathering session will meet at area 7 - 8 parking lot on Nov. 26th at 10 am. The tree must be completed by Dec. 8th. Betsy Abert, Lynn Crawford, Sierra Dawkins, and Jackie Benka will decorate the tree, with some supplies from Debby Pizur.

South Milwaukee's Winter Market is Dec. 2nd at the SM High School, from 9 am to 2 pm. FOGP will be selling our 2018 Grant Park Calendars. Pam Uhrig & Jan Marsh will work 8:30 to 11:30 am; Debby Pizur & Jackie Benka from 11:30 to 2:30 pm.

Trek 'n Treat was a great success again. Many thanks to our sponsors and volunteers. We had over 130 kids participate, and FOGP made \$410 profit.

Last, we met Dawn St. George, the new Executive Director of the Park People, who took over after Jim Goulee's retirement. She brings many talents to the organization, but acknowledges that the reduction in parks budget is millions less. Our county executive wants parks to move toward being supported by major donor sponsors; her task is to raise \$1 million per year. She is asking friends groups to focus on selling memorial trees, park benches, and perhaps memberships? She is happy to help us apply for grants for projects within parks. Matching funds are still available up to \$20K.

Our next meeting will be December 14th, at 6:30 pm in the golf course clubhouse.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson, Secretary and Interim Chair
Friends of Grant Park
www.fogp.org
Facebook: Friends of Grant Park