

Grant Park Watch / Friends of Grant Park Minutes March 14, 2019

Attending: Tom Gardner, Jody Johnson, Sue Hibben, Rick Kaiser, Lynn Meidam, Lynn Crawford, Pam Uhrig, South Milwaukee Police Officer Dan Fournier, Betsy Abert, Annemarie Adsen, Debbie Wilhelm

Grant Park Watch

Officer Fournier - no events of vandalism or after hours trespassing last month. Asked about a recent drive-by shooting in Cudahy, he said some conditions make Cudahy more likely than South Milwaukee for this, such as more bars, more vacant properties, etc. Recent tagging in the park is still thought to be teenage "gang wanna be's"; no strong evidence points to actual gang activity. And we have an unsolved mystery about the source of dozens of blue gloves littering the Oak Creek Parkway at Lake Drive and Mill Road.

Officer Fournier said that SMPD is planning an auxiliary station for the Traveling Beer Garden at area 5 pavilion June 19 through July 7th.

Friends of Grant Park

Treasurer's report: We have a total of \$13,329.03 in combined accounts.

Last minute Pullin' o' the Green party details: 32 guests confirmed online; plus 14 verbal confirmations. Raffles planned: 4 bird house packages, 2 wine baskets, Baileys Irish Cream cheesecake, and a 50/50. Food: loaded baked potato bar. Beverages: Donated Guinness, Miller Lite, Uhrig's home brewed wheat beer, 2 wines, soda. Several members made donations of food or supplies including Debbie Pizur, who donated craft items, and Betsy Abert will donate salmon and appetizers trays. Nancy Wucherer will bartend, and Lions Club Leo's teen volunteers will come. We agreed to offer FOGP 2019 calendars to any new member attending POG.

Board & Bylaws draft was tabled until our April meeting. We will send a copy to core members to review prior to our next meeting.

YouthWorks volunteers will return to work this summer in Grant on Wednesday's, June 10th thru Aug. 1st. Rick Kaiser has been coordinating their activity in Grant. Are we able to find work for volunteers 2x/week? 1x/week? 1-1/2x/week? Total of 8 weeks; we need to have facilitators for projects to secure tools needed, determine areas needing attention, method to proceed with work, etc. The consensus was once a week. Rick will be unavailable June 12 & June 19. The schedule:

June 12 & 19 - Wil-o-Way with Betsy, Chris & Sue; **June 26** - Burdock removal with Betsy; **July 3rd** - Burdock removal with Betsy (with Pam? Deb Wilhelm?); Rick will do remainder of dates, and will ask if we can utilize volunteers for an additional half day each week, such as Thursday mornings.

Volunteers are always needed for WeedOut. Oak Creek HS Ecology Class is coming May 4th. Betsy will coordinate that. South Milwaukee track team might be scheduled for another day or another area of the park to reduce the potential for trampling of wildflowers. Betsy willing to host a May 28th WeedOut if interest is there. A draft letter seeking volunteers for WeedOut will be composed to send to area businesses that encourage community volunteer work.

We talked of encouraging volunteers by suggesting shorter increments of time.

We briefly discussed crowdsourcing for major improvement projects. No one had any experience with this. It remains open for future discussion.

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Great Horned Owls were reported attacking dogs in the area of the park. Betsy suggested this was due to ice glazing on the deep snow pack, which prevents owls from hunting for mice, voles, etc. Hunger and the fact that they are raising new hatchlings drives them to attack larger prey. The problem will likely discontinue when the ice melts a bit.

Southeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium has asked FOGP to join their organization as a non-profit supporter. Full disclosure: FOGP received a grant from SEWISC. We voted yes for a \$50 annual donation.

FOGP will have a table at the SM Spring Market, Sunday, March 24th from 9 am to 2 pm. Betsy, Deb P., Deb W., Jody and Pam will work.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the golf course clubhouse. Volunteers are encouraged to join us in any way manageable.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson