

Grant Park Watch/Friends of Grant Park Minutes

April 11, 2019

Attending: Jackie Benka, Rick Kaiser, Betsy Abert, Lynn Crawford, Lynn Meidam, Jan Marsh, Louise Gorenc, Brian Morrison, Patrick Hintz, Pam Uhrig

Security:

No officer was present as there were no issues to report. Spray paint on the main kiosk nearest the 7 Bridges was cleaned off by Betsy using Parks' "Goof-off". Other graffiti sprayed on a bridge post has been painted over by Parks staff. Near-by trees were also tagged.

Treasurer Report:

Net income from Pullin' o' the Green is \$2,092.86. Checking balance is \$2,687.20. Savings balance is \$3,458.21. Park People balance is \$10,376.71. Total balance is \$16,522.12.

Board & Bylaws:

A question was raised as to what the member application form looks like. Brian said that he has a copy of the form he submitted, but the form will need to be revised once the bylaws are adopted. Another comment was that voting members must also be those who have paid their membership dues for that year. Further discussion was tabled until the May meeting due to the absence of members on this committee.

Plants for the main entrance on Lake Drive and Park Avenue:

Permission was granted by Natural Areas manager Brian Russart for our staff to transplant from the existing native gardens to fill the areas around the Park entry sign.. Transplanting will take place on Wednesday, May 8 at 5:30 pm. Betsy will check with Diggers Hotline to make sure the area near the entrance sign is clear of inground utilities.

YouthWorks scheduling:

Rick is coordinating the schedule for the youth who will volunteer at the park from June 10-August 1st, on Wednesdays from 9:30-3:30 and Thursdays from 9-12. Please contact Rick if you are available, kaiserlaw157@gmail.com.

Road Rebuild:

Concern has been expressed by not only park users about the poor condition of the road through Wil-o-way, Grant and the parkway, but employees now believe reconstruction is necessary. Workers have been filling the potholes, but due to the lack of a decent base beneath the blacktop, the holes reoccur quickly and the time spent to continually fill them is a huge waste of park employee's time. It was recommended that a letter be sent to County Supervisor Steven Shea to emphasize the importance of getting the road repaved and request that this be a high priority item. Rick was asked to write the letter.

Weedout:

The weedout schedule is on our website and the Park People website. It will soon be on the County Parks website. Betsy and Pam attended the coordinators workshop at Jacobus Park facilitated by the Parks Natural Areas team. They have devised a 3 tier system of identifying the type of work required in a certain area and how many and what type of volunteer is needed for that job. We will also be making sure that our volunteers have safety goggles for cutting buckthorn and first aid kits. The Park People will be supplying us with green vests for workers and orange vests for the coordinators in an effort to make our work more visible. More signs will

be posted to help identify who and what we are doing. Oak Creek HS Ecology Club will return after nearly ten years of volunteering on May 4th. Also loyal volunteers, the SM track team is scheduled for working on May 18th. A schedule of our weedout events will be placed in the kiosks and given to the businesses at their luncheon on April 16th.

Suburban Soles:

Brian handed out flyers and posters and discussed the schedule of events. JM media is providing several yard signs to post on the weekend of each event which will advertise the time and place. Jackie will contact Parks to reserve Wulff lodge for July 28th's Seven Bridges History walk with Nels Monson. Notices will be placed on the Next Door site. Posters will be placed in the kiosks. The schedule will also be available on our Facebook page. The membership agreed to reimburse Brian Morrison \$250 for speaker and advertising expenses.

Trees:

It was agreed that 30 trees will be ordered by Brian Russart to be planted in Grant in the fall. Rick will ask Brian to place our order. Also, the tree that was ordered to honor Don Lawson will be looked into.

Spring Market report:

The SM Spring Market on 3/24/19 brought in \$154. Items sold: milkweed packets, t-shirts, Easter items made by Deb Pizur. Those who worked at the table reported that the exposure is good and that many people made positive comments about the park.

Website migration progress:

Our FoGP website is being migrated from the Garlic Mustard Pickers to FoGP so that Jody will be the account manager, using a Green Geeks platform. FoGP will be responsible to pay for the site, which will cost (discounted) \$106.20/3 years (already paid by Jody, to be reimbursed by FoGP). Renewal in 2022 will cost \$358. The membership agreed with the web hosting site and fees. Meanwhile, Jody is locked out of adding anything new to the website until she can get the password from site manager.

Other:

Community Night Out is Wednesday, August 14 and we have a booth reserved. Lynn M will check on the Library entrance display cases for possible use by FoGP and Suburban Soles.

Reminder: Grant Park Beach Cleanup April 20th, 9-noon. Migratory Bird walk April 28th, 8 am, area 7.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Uhrig