

Grant Park Watch/Friends of Grant Park Minutes

July 11th, 2019

Attending: Rick Kaiser, Betsy Abert, Lynn Meidam, Jan Marsh, Chris Marifke, Susan Gresser, Debby Pizur, James Davies, Jody Johnson, Pam Uhrig, Mary Belvoil, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office Deputies Daniel Humphreys and Matthew Vandertie

Security:

Deputies Humphreys and Vandertie told us about an app created by MCSO to report security incidents directly. It is called MCSO Mobile, for use on Android or iPhone devices. You can also call to report non-emergency issues, (414) 278-4788.

The two deputies attending had been assigned to Zone 5 for patrol. Zone 5 covers Grant Park (and 25 other county parks). We asked about a recent incident, involving a woman photographer at the beach end of the 7 Bridges trail at sunset being threatened by a man, while onlookers did nothing. The deputies had no information about the incident. In the last month, 36 calls were made, up from the monthly average of 17. They reported car vandalism at area 5 lot; 3 medical incidents; a family vs. family dispute; and 1 sexual assault charge, currently under investigation so no further details. Illegal dumping of trash was observed at Will-o-Way by one of our members.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking balance is \$4,967.61. Savings balance is \$5,721.11. Park People balance is \$10,421.10. Total balance is \$21,109.82.

We are applying for a Bucyrus Erie Foundation Grant due on July 19th. Several ideas were discussed as our chosen project: accessibility for main entrance to 7 Bridges trail (estimated cost \$85K); Wulff Lodge chimney fix (estimated cost \$4K - 8K); Suburban Soles upgrades (microphone, signage, speaker's fees, etc.); replanting denuded area 8 with a pollinated prairie after Japanese Lilac eradication; Step installation project to prevent erosion (estimates vary, survey needed, site design by landscape engineer necessary). The cost of the erosion project may be as much as \$40K, but without the survey and design in hand, we can't proceed. We voted to focus on the steps erosion project. Jan Marsh volunteered to write up the proposal.

James Davies has drafted a resolution to present to the county board to ban smoking in Milwaukee county parks. 3 other WI counties have already done this, as has the village of Shorewood, city of Verona, and Wisconsin Dells for reasons of littering, toxicity and health. Smoking affects health, and hundreds of cigarette butts were found around the children's playground perimeter. State statute allows private enterprises within the parks to establish smoking areas nearby, but the enterprise may also choose not to.

Summer volunteers from YouthWorks are regular helpers on Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Rick Kaiser reported good progress so far, although heat was definitely a factor on July 10th.

Plans are underway for the FOGP 2020 Calendar. Our theme will be "Preserve Grant Park". We will feature projects we have done to preserve the park as well as those things we *wish* to preserve. Contact Debby Pizur, Jackie Benka, Pam Uhrig, Jody Johnson, or Lynn Meidam if you have a photo you'd like to submit.

Evening on the Avenue is July 25th, starting at 4 pm in South Milwaukee. We will have a table from 4 - 8 pm. Two shifts will work: Lynn M. 4 - 6 pm; Jody 6 - 8 pm. Contact Jody if you would like to join us for a shift!

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 8th, at 6:30 pm in the golf course clubhouse.

Respectfully submitted,
Jody Johnson