

Grant Park Watch/Friends of Grant Park Minutes

Sept. 12th, 2019

Attending: Rick Kaiser, Jody Johnson, Pam Uhrig, Lynn Crawford, Debbie Wilhelm, Patrick Hintz, Jackie Benka, Annemarie Adsen, Debby Pizur, Sierra Dawkins, Betsy Abert, Tom Gardner, Gene Johannsen, Frank Gratke, Anneke Mohr

Security:

There were no security issues to report.

Treasurer's Report:

We had \$160 in donations this month. We are still waiting to receive our Bucyrus Foundation grant check for \$2,000. Checking balance is \$4,590.11. Savings balance is \$3,468.94. Park People balance is \$10,421.10. Total balance is \$18,480.15.

Debby Pizur drafted a RFP letter for our steps/erosion project. Betsy Abert learned of a qualified hydrologist & engineer, from R.A. Smith Co., who is interested in the project and is willing to visit the park and view the site next Thursday.

Trek 'n Treat is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 13th from 1 to 4 pm, in area 5 pavilion, and in the Seven Bridges ravine and trails. Pam Uhrig is recruiting for volunteers, needed on site at 12:30 pm the day of the event. We expect some volunteers from the UWM Service Learning program, and South Milwaukee HS. If we are still short on Oct. 1st, she'll send a request for volunteers to Oak Creek HS. Pam suggested adding a loop to the route that would lead to the steps/erosion project area so we can bring attention to our proposed effort there.

As mentioned above, we were contacted by the UWM Center for Community-Based Learning, Leadership, and Research program that seeks to find volunteer opportunities for students in Environmental Sciences courses. Betsy will attend a community in the round event to meet with prospective volunteers on Sept. 17th on the UWM campus.

We have been working on gaining support for a proposed ordinance to ban smoking in county parks. Critical to this effort is to find support on the County Board of Supervisors, who ultimately will vote on adoption of the ordinance. We were joined by Anneke Mohr from the Milwaukee Tobacco-Free Alliance, who shared many resources and some campaigns that have begun in Milwaukee such as the Hold on To Your Butt MKE! campaign. She showed us a special cylindrical receptacle for cigarette butts that carry the HOTYB motto and graphics. They are waiting for permission from Milwaukee Co. Parks to install receptacles at Bradford, McKinley, and South Shore parks. She said she may have 3 additional units available for installation in Grant Park. If we choose to, we can order more, a box of 6 minimum, at \$85 each. She also shared news of BayView Neighborhood Association's smoking ban at Chill on the Hill.

Regrettably, we canceled our plans to create a calendar for 2020, due to technical difficulties with submitted photos and time constraints. We briefly discussed other items to sell as fundraising merchandise.

Our fall Adopt-a-Beach Clean Up is Saturday, Sept. 21st from 9 am to noon at area 5 parking lot. Jody Johnson and Jackie Benka will run this event.

Fall WeedOut starts Sept. 28th, at 9 am, meeting at the tennis court parking lot. Buckthorn and honeysuckle are our targeted invasive shrubs/trees.

Rick Kaiser volunteered to remove some heavy log bridge beams from the creek that were replaced with new beams. He asked for strong youthful volunteers to assist.

Our tree order delivery date has not been determined, but will be in late October.

Debby Pizur asked us to finalize the bylaws. We need to vote on them. We will set up an election for our December meeting. We are seeking a candidate for secretary as well.

Frank Gratke introduced himself and asked for our help. He asked for support regarding plans for the Oak Creek Watershed related to a Caterpillar Superfund Site, and a Falk Site, all pertinent to the Mill Pond restoration. He says Mayor Brooks will highlight an upcoming SEWRPC meeting on his blog. Visit Frank's website: smmillpond.com/falk. He hopes to find funding to move 1.5 billion lbs. of sand piled south of the SM High School sports complex and to test for chromium and molybdenum that he believes is buried there as Falk waste.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 10th, at 6:30 pm in the golf course clubhouse. As usual, all who wish to join are encouraged to attend, and further, volunteer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jody Johnson