

FOGP meeting minutes

Jan. 9th, 2020

Attendees: Jackie Benka, Jody Johnson, Debby Pizur, Lynn Crawford, Lynn Meidam, Karin Franklin, Jan Marsh, Justine Miller, Robert Kempke, Alice Thompson, Rick Kaiser, Pam Uhrig, Patrick Hintz, Betsy Abert

1. Security – See note from conversation with Sean below
2. Treasurer's Report- report was given.
Membership cards were handed out. Sold all the coffee making \$150 profit.
If you need to contact the Treasurer her email is. nofoolynn@yahoo.com .
PAYMENT OPTIONS for dues and donations:
 1. Online at <https://parkpeoplemke.org/friends-groups/donate-friends-groups> (select Grant Park)
 2. Check payable to Friends of Grant Park and send to: FOGP c/o 1000 Lake Drive, South Milwaukee, WI 53172
3. SEWRPC - Dec. 12th Oak Creek Watershed meeting report- Alice Thompson reported. She shared a 1930 map of the construction plans for the pond. The dam's sluice gate is clogged. The surprise is that there is PCB at the mouth of the creek and near the blue bridge. The area is highly contaminated. It should require emergency removal. Water quality sampling results was shared and full results can be found by Googling Oak Creek restoration plan. It was agreed a letter should be written to DNR, SEWRPC, and our County Supervisor and cc our Mayor and SM health dept. Jackie and Debby will compose a draft letter to be shared with Parks and members.
4. Bucyrus Grant project – Survey for slope at Wil-O-Way and entrance to beach was completed by RA Smith's Gary Raasch. It was suggested to visit Lion's Den Park in Brown Deer to look at the steps that lead to lake.
RA Smith has agreed to create a construction plan. Betsy will ask them to give us an estimate for completing the plan.
Rick will ask if parks is still doing matching grants
Betsy will contact Lake Association that does construction at reduced costs.
5. Missing Gargoyles at area 5 pavilion? The faces are at parks maintenance 68th and State. Parks would like us to get them fixed. Blake the Mechanical Services Manager is responsible for the gargoyles. Betsy volunteered to contact historical society for recommendation for someone who can restore the gargoyles.
6. Membership drive – Shared draft PR materials. It was requested to make a little more room to write address. Share any suggestions with Jackie and Deb
7. 2020 Planning Calendar and Suburban Soles taking shape. If you know of any other dates that should be added please contact Jody
8. Donation received – Abert family \$200 donation. A big thank you to the whole Abert family.
9. Eddee Daniels: Presentation? He is a member of Preserve our Parks, former art teacher and photographer. He does nature talks associated with the photos he takes.

Sean Kelly, Unit manager for Grant Park, reported:

1. Leopold bench was moved. They were made by scouts at the request of natural areas. Stakes securing benches are not in concrete and are easily pulled out.
2. Construction schedule for repair of road has not been set yet. Wil-o-Way road is also proposed to be done as well as the beach road.
3. Gates are being left open intentionally. In freezing weather the locks freeze and cause delays in getting into the park and plowing. May leave gates open in the summer.
4. Tattered flag at the beach was taken down.

5. There is more beaver activity. Sean asked we report any beaver activity/damage we see to him.

Members reported large plank on one of the bridges. Recommendation was made to send a picture to Sean.

Pam reported a "Bluff" sign was lying in the bushes and she placed the sign on picnic table.

A Huge Thank you to Mary Belvoir for donation of a beautiful quilt to the Gala auction.

Other:

South Shore Chamber of Commerce gave us a one year free membership. Meeting highlight was meeting the new school superintendent.

Meetings are held in the basement of Joe's K Ranch.

Rick proposed we once again signup with Youthworks choosing to work with the kids on Wednesday and Thursday.

Grass Roots South Shore is hosting a candidate forum Weds. Jan. 15th at Hawthorne Coffee Roasters, 4177 S. Howell Ave. starting at 6 pm. Meet and greet at 6:30 and forum from 7 to 8. There will be 5 of 9 candidates in attendance.

Betsy asked if anyone could suggest a better name than Weedout that would motivate others to volunteer. A suggestion of Citizen Stewardship was made by new member Justine.

A visitor to our website suggested that we move the request for donations to a less dominant location.

Gala – Pam shared the FOGP profile created for the gala. We will use it to try and obtain donations for the auction. Betsy said she will contact photographer Todd Leech to ask for a donation.

Lindsey Frost volunteer coordinator for Park People has created a Friends Group guide book.

Another concern raised was a news article about PFAS foam in a Madison area creek. Similarly, PFAS was reported downstream of a creek near Mitchell Field. Here is a link to the article from the Wisconsin Examiner: <https://wisconsinexaminer.com/brief/pfas-foam-confirmed-in-madison-area-creek/>

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 13th at 6:30 pm in the golf course clubhouse.

Respectfully submitted by
Debby Pizur