

Grant Park Watch/Friends of Grant Park Minutes

Nov. 14th, 2019

Attending: Rick Kaiser, Jody Johnson, Pam Uhrig, Lynn Crawford, Debbie Wilhelm, Patrick Hintz, Jackie Benka, Annemarie Adsen, Debby Pizur, Betsy Abert, Frank Gratke, Sue Hibben, Karin and Rich Franklin, Justine Bellamy, Lynn Meidam, Jan Marsh

We thanked the Garlic Mustard Pickers band for yet another generous gift of \$800 presented by band treasurer, Jerry Connor. We will use the proceeds to benefit the park's natural areas. We wished the band members well including active FoGP members, Pam and Dave and Clan Wilhelm dive into other musical realms. Jerry reminded us that Celtic sessions take place regularly at Moran's Pub in SM.

Security:

Rick Kaiser asked if anyone knew about shots being fired at Bender Park. No one had any knowledge or other information about this.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking balance is \$5,296.21. Savings balance is \$3,469.23. Park People balance is \$12,261.10. Total balance is \$21,026.54.

Lynn Crawford also reported we have a 2019 budget surplus of \$7,600.46. This is the first year we have worked with an annual budget in mind.

We reviewed our proposed bylaws for a final vote to be held in December.

Several people volunteered to be candidates for our board election to be held at our December meeting. We need to determine if bylaws will apply to this election, i.e. only dues paying members have voting privileges. We were actively seeking nominations for the position of chair and secretary. Other nominees were as follows:

- Chair - (write in)_____ (or Jody to continue... consider being a co-chair)
- Vice chair, incumbent Debby Pizur
- Secretary - Lynn Crawford and Debby Pizur to share this job
- Treasurer - incumbent Lynn Crawford, and Deb Wilhelm
- Technical - Frank Gratke
- Weed Out Directors - Pam Uhrig, Betsy Abert

Justine Bellamy returned to share new fundraising ideas. Commemorative personalized bricks can be sold for memorials and engraved with names or dates chosen. A local firm offers this brick and engraving service. Our cost is \$20 per brick, but we can sell them for \$50. We would need to establish a memorial somewhere in the park. Boerner Botanical garden has this. Parks landscape architects need to be consulted both for approval and placement of the memorial. A suggestion was made to place this at the Seven Bridges main entrance area.

FOGP will have a table at the Park People Gala in April. We will have a Silent Auction package. So far we have collected a one year certificate from Bubblr Bikes, allowing the recipient to have unlimited use of a blue Bubblr Bike. Brian Morrison has donated 3 handcrafted bird houses as well. And we are seeking some spectacular photos of the park, to frame and offer for silent auction. Volunteers are needed to help at the Gala, at no charge to the volunteer. Contact Pam Uhrig to volunteer. Members may choose instead to be a paying guest for \$150 per plate, with all proceeds going to the Park People.

The South Milwaukee Winter Market is Saturday, Dec. 7th at South Milwaukee High School from 9 am to 2 pm. We will have a table offering tote bags, and shade-grown “bird friendly” coffee, and window decals to deter bird/window collisions. Debbie Pizur will also sell some hand made craft items. Pam will work from 8 am to 11:30 am. Deb Wilhelm, Betsy, Justine, and Debbie Pizur from 11:30 to 2 pm.

Regarding our proposal to ban smoking in county parks, Patrick Hintz said that Sheriff Earnell Lucas is not in favor because enforcement would be too difficult. But, South Milwaukee’s Mayor Brooks approves. Our South Milwaukee Police Chief, William Jessup, said he could only enforce if it was a county ordinance. Supervisor Steven Shea has less enthusiasm if Sheriff Lucas is not on board. County Supervisors Jason Haas and Sheldon Wasserman, both members of the Committee on Energy & Environment, are in favor. Patrick hopes to arrange a meeting with Sheriff Lucas.

Patrick also shared a tidbit from the South Shore Open House meeting held at Kelly Center: Edward Santiago from parks announced that the road to the main beach will be repaved next year. Patrick further suggested meeting with South Shore Grass Roots group.

30 trees were planted in the park plus 100 white pines from the US Forest Service. Thanks to Betsy Abert, Rick Kaiser, and Ricky Rodriguez, as well as several FOGP members who helped transplant the young trees.

Be thinking of additions to our planning calendar for 2020.

Betsy Abert suggested we have notecards printed with some Grant Park photos utilizing some of the fantastic work of photographers who regularly post on our Facebook page. She envisioned a brief bio of the photographer, and our FOGP logo on the back. Estimates of printing cost will be sought.

Jan Marsh addressed the group about the South East Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). After months of study, the master plan for Oak Creek is partially posted on their website. Some concerning results: high chlorides; and at the mouth of Oak Creek at Grant Park beach, PCB levels twice as high as at the MKE harbor estuary. The Mill Pond dam was not discussed. The next SEWRPC meeting will be Dec. 12th at the Oak Creek Community Center where these issues will be discussed.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec. 12th, at 6:30 pm in the golf course clubhouse. As usual, all who wish to join are encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Jody Johnson