

Friends of Grant Park

Minutes from Zoom online meeting November 12th 6:30 PM.

Members in attendance: Betsy Abert, Jackie Benka, Jody Johnson, Rick Kaiser, Janette Marsh, Lynn Meidam, Brian Morrison, Bill Sasse, Debra Wilhelm

Introductions of those present.

Security: Betsy reported that people have frequently been illegally dumping trash at the Wil-o-way dumpster area. On a recent event, Betsy noted a large amount of trash and reported this to the Grant Park staff, who in turn advised that Betsy report this information to the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Dept. Suggestion for future discussion: Need for camera or increased lighting in this area.

Treasurer's Report: Balance of \$20,998.51. \$500 remaining from the Bucyrus Foundation Grant.

Board Election: Chairperson Jody Johnson presented the ballot : Consensus Chair-Jody Johnson, Vice Chair-Debby Pizur, Co-Secretaries-Lynn Crawford & Debby Pizur, Treasurer-Lynn Crawford. Jody asked for a vote of members present if interested in keeping the current Board members as it stands. All members voted to renew the current board. Position of Members at Large: Betsy Abert, Jackie Benka, and Lynn Meidam volunteered and were accepted by members attending.

Oak Creek Watershed Workday: Discussion postponed until the next meeting.

Bike Path Signage: Request came from a FOGP member who uses the bike path frequently, to discuss possible placement of signs that would remind bikers and walkers of rules of bike path etiquette. Suggestion is wording such as "Bikes pass left, Walking keep right." Research and discussion with Milwaukee County Parks needs to be done. Suggestion to check out the MUTCD, Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. See also railstotrails.org/sharethetrail or Wisconsin Bike Federation website. We tabled further discussion until next month.

FOGP Wil-o-way area Steps Project: Betsy Abert reported meeting with Milwaukee County Parks Landscape architect Mike Martin and Friends group liaison Lindsay Frost regarding the future of this project. The report is that at this time, Parks cannot support this project and FOGP does not have enough grant money to proceed without their help. Type of steps were discussed; limestone or granite is preferred by MCParks along with a railing requirement. More research and fundraising discussion is needed.

Weed-Out work day: On November 7th, members of the Oak Creek High School Environmental Club helped to remove buckthorn. 14 members participated but were divided into smaller groups to allow distancing, and masks were worn at all times. Since Covid-19 precautions restricted any volunteer activity, this was the first time this year that we had Parks permission to safely enlist volunteers again.

Seven Bridges Kiosk: Members Jody Johnson and Pam Uhrig refreshed the Seven Bridges Kiosk with updated information. Thanks to Beth Blackwood for donating the new corkboard.

Root Pike Watershed Initiative Network: guest attendee Bill Sasse provided information about the Watershed Initiative Network that has completed many successful environmental projects mostly in the Kenosha area. The group is now taking interest in the Oak Creek Watercourse Restoration Plan and upon completion of the plan may be able to help with large scale grant projects. Bill also spoke highly of a volunteer group called Urban Underground.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Our next meeting will be held online on Thursday, Dec. 10th at 6:30 pm.
Submitted by Jackie Benka