

Friends of Grant Park
Meeting minutes July 8, 2021

Attending: Lynn Meidam, Deb Pizur, Lynn Crawford, Louise Gorenc, Bill Sasse, Jan Marsh, Betsy Abert, Deb Sindric, Annemarie Adsen, Pam Uhrig, Jody Johnson, Debbie Wilhelm, Patrick Hintz, Rick Kaiser

Security – 4th of July was peaceful in the park. The next day a bluebird box was found to be vandalized by small firecrackers lit inside, killing 5 bluebird chicks. Identity of vandal is unknown.

Two more FOGP signs stolen. A dog walker tore up fencing at Warnimont dog park that took 50 hours to put up. Person was cited and will have to pay \$1200 in restitution.

Treasurer's Report – Our balance is \$22,509.06. Please see attached report.

July 4th FOGP tent - kudos to our members for their public outreach table & tent, although not a lot of traffic. T-shirts sold: 2 FOGP, and 1 Master Beer Gardener. Also sold 1 native plant and had a \$5 donation. We may need to reorder some more t-shirts. We'll also set up table at the Farmers market in the fall.

New programs for 2022? – Brian Morrison suggested by email some new focus programs such as By the Water, Bluegrass in the Park, and Owl Prowl Pub crawl. Speakers from various water related organizations were suggested such as Root Pike WIN, Alliance for the Great Lakes, RiverKeepers, MMSD, and Reflo Sustainable Water Solutions. It was suggested we feature a speaker on this topic for a future public event .

June's Suburban Soles Native Plant walk had 36 participants. Speaker was Delisa White. Brian has been offering Suburban Soles T's in a raffle. Raffle ticket requires contact info from attendees which are added to our email network. Contact form also allows attendees to volunteer. New volunteers will be asked to help with Trek and Treat in October. Brian thinks Suburban Soles topics have run their course. Most members think it best not to change SS too much because it's become a well-attended recognized program. Brian probably needs a team behind him. Brian will be asked how members can help.

YouthWorks / Urban Underground update

Youth group work pictures posted on Facebook. SM resident responded to post asking about future volunteer opportunities. Can we post event as an invitation on Facebook to know number of expected volunteers (tech assistance needed to do this)? YouthWorks supervisor contacted Rick with unexpected extra work days for several Mondays and Thursday afternoons in July. Details to be worked out.

Twenty youths from Urban Underground and their supervisors from Root Pike WIN helped in Grant. Kids came with their own tools. Rick Kaiser found a huge population of Japanese Tree Lilac between Lake Dr and bike path.

"A Community Thrives" Grant Program update – Since Park People plans to apply, we won't be able to since we use their EIN number to apply.

6/24 Friends Group meeting report - 3 FOGP members attended. Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley asked people to contact their representatives to allow county to raise funds for non-mandated services with 1% sales tax increase. Park People Director Barry Waddel shared news that PP Gala Dinner was rescheduled for Nov. 12th, 2022; Park People has a new office at 10300 W. Wisconsin Ave.; Parks will have a pub truck available soon for any event; Friends of LaFollet Park have portable movie screen to lend. Various park group representatives spoke to highlight their efforts during a challenging year. Jody reported summary for FOGP. Pulaski Park group reported they will hold Bluegrass in the Park event in August.

Emilie Herbeck's Eagle Scout project progress - Dilapidated zig zag split rail cedar fencing was replaced with new lumber. Emilie sent pictures of finished project to Lynn C. and thanked us for our help. We will post on website and facebook.

Rummage Sale – Donated items for this sale benefit FOGP. Drop off items at 3621 E. Iona Terrace, on July 15 from 9 to 10am and 5-6pm.

SE Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) held a public meeting about Chapter 6 of the Oak Creek watershed study with info about options and cost of dealing with the Mill pond and dam. Meeting can be viewed online or read 66-page report on sewrpc.org website. Core samples will have to be taken to determine nature of contaminates and recommendations of work will eventually go to EPA for approval. There are several options for remediation, with hefty price tags attached. Cost of options does NOT include additional cost of core sampling which needs to happen first before any other choices are made.

Bill Sasse suggested FOGP members tour Root River and Pike River to see what watershed remediation would look like. Bill and Root Pike WIN have been working to secure grant money for decades to restore these rivers.

Replacing window blinds at Wulff Lodge has been delayed due to the reconstruction of the road.

The following Sunday, July 11th , join us at Area 5 for **Suburban Soles** guided nature hike at 10 am. Our tour guide will be Dr. Kate Pauls, Milwaukee Public Museum Geology Assistant. The topic? **"Roll Away the Stone"** - Geology of the bluffs and ravine

Lynn C. moved to adjourn, Deb P. seconded. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, Aug. 12th at 6:30 pm in the brown pavilion at area 5 in the park.

Respectfully submitted by
Debbie Pizur