

Friends of Grant Park Meeting Minutes November 11, 2021

Those in attendance: Jody Johnson, Pam Uhrig, Rick Kaiser, Debby Pizur, Chris Marifke, Betsy Abert, Jan Marsh, Jackie Benka, Lynn Meidam, Brooke Gilley, Mary Fortier, Brian Morrison, John Leanna, Bill Sasse, Patrick Hintz, Theresa, Susan Gresser, Emily Constantine

Security: 2 Deer carcasses found at Mill Pond, reported by John Leanna. DNR warden was called; carcasses were removed. Warden said in Whitnall Park someone shot/poached a deer with a crossbow right in front of him. DNR Warden: Samuel J. Haferkorn, 414-617-1420, Samuel.haferkorn@wi.gov. See website at https://widnr.widen.net/s/chhtkdmjsh/wm0685-2021_small for regulations.

The park closes at 10 pm, although the entrance gates at Grant currently remain open at night. We will request staff to close gates to prevent illegal hunting and shining in the park.

Treasurer's Report: Report is tabled due to Lynn C.'s absence

Election for 2022 FOGP board: An online ballot was tried but technical problems occurred. We voted at our Zoom meeting with the current board re-elected:

Jody Johnson, chair

Debby Pizur, vice-chair, and co-secretary

Lynn Crawford, treasurer and co-secretary

Lynn Meidam, Jackie Benka and Betsy Abert, members at large

Foraging update: the foraging amendment was voted down 5 to 0 by the members of MKE County Parks, Energy & Environment committee. Thanks to Rick Kaiser for composing a thorough letter of opposition and then circulating a petition that garnered 100 signatures. With the amendment's defeat, it is safe to post info about the harm of foraging to the environment and native plants.

Fundraising Committee:

Trek 'n Treat: Financial report not yet available.

Garden Tour and Art Fair at Wil-o-Way: Had productive meeting with Garden Tour organizers and Master Gardeners. They were very gracious and welcomed our idea to hold an art fair during the Garden Tour. We are considering the options.

Calendar update: We discontinued using Better Together Cafe as vendor; started offering calendars at Kelly Senior Center's Gift Shop. We plan to sell at Christmas Market in Salvation Army Oak Creek and SM PAC. Sales amount to \$500 so far.

Bucyrus Foundation 2022 Grant: Rick talked to Brian Russart, Milwaukee Parks Natural Areas Coordinator. We need to have projects that are ready to go. SM Mayor Eric Brooks is resigning soon, replaced temporarily by Common Council president. We do not know how that will affect distribution of the grant funds. Discussion centered on the changing nature of the guard at city hall and how that will affect our strategy to work with them to benefit Grant Park. Jan M. offered advice regarding grant projects to propose for funding... 1) get parks permission for proposed project FIRST. 2) then prepare more detailed request to Bucyrus with costs listed.

Another potential source for funding is the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Funds are very competitive and labor-intensive to apply for, including reporting of fund uses. Hiring a grant writer and administrator

can be part of grant request. Something to talk about in future. Brian Russart suggested we attach some of our project to grants he may be applying for.

Brooke said she'd see if Wehr Nature Center staff could help write grants.

Steps project – the Grant Park maintenance yard has railings we can use for this project. Betsy working with a local company to get plans and have the work done. Need to have a person manage the project.

Betsy's pressing project suggestions - restoring the bottom of ravine: steps need replacing and relocating to save south facing slope; south-facing slope needs to be replanted over the bridge with fencing installed; missing limestone stepping stones need to be replaced; and walls in north branch of ravine need to be rebuilt.

Request for funding for Wil-o-Way garden maintenance:

Materials funding from UW-Extension no longer available. Master gardeners Chris M. and Susan G. submitted a request for funding of mulch and crushed granite at \$930. Master gardeners maintain paths and plants for garden and hope to be on the garden tour annually and have activities and hot house. Neither Parks nor Adult Day Services has ever contributed to funding since they began restoring the area. Debby moved to spend \$500 for materials. Jan seconds – motion passes.

Tree Planting update: 50 trees purchased and planted this fall in area where invasive Japanese tree lilac was removed. 40 planted west of 7 Bridges parking lot, others planted in area 7 & 8 . Good news! Many trees that were planted last spring survived the hot, dry summer.

Misc:

- Christmas Tree? Contact Deb Pizur if you wish to help create a **community holiday tree** again.
- Kelly Senior Center doing **nature walks on Oak Leaf Trail** in Warnimont Park at 9am on Thursdays.
- Rick wants tally of **volunteer hours in 2021** to report to Parks.
- A **private company** was hired to power-wash area 5 pavilion, paint ceiling and other maintenance.

Our next meeting will be held on December 9th at 6:30 pm in the Golf Course Clubhouse.

Submitted by
Debby Pizur