

Friends of Grant Park Meeting Minutes December 9, 2021

Attending - Mary Fortier, Robert Kempke, Lynn Crawford, Lynn Meidam, Betsy Abert, Deb Pizur, Emily Constantine, James Hogden, Jody Johnson, Patrick Hintz

Security – Pam Uhrig reported by email that there were deep truck tracks going around Wulff Lodge and FOGP garden sign was broken. Tracks maybe made by Parks or Sheriffs. Wulff's gate is not always closed. Suggested that someone talks to Sean about keeping gates closed. Parks has a notification website which can be used to report issues: <https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Parks/Contact>

It was mentioned that it would be nice to have an officer attend meeting that the group could share concerns and be updated about park issues. Jody will follow-up to see if we can get an officer to attend meetings again.

Treasurer's Report- Presentation of 2022 Budget. Please see attached. In 2021 we are in the black and are \$223.50 to the good. Will vote on budget in January. Please bring any concerns or ideas.

We will be receiving a donation from Adult Day Service for Master gardeners' programs. We do not know at this time the amount of the donation.

Board election results- All candidates were re-elected: Chair, Jody Johnson; Vice-chair, Debby Pizur; Treasurer, Lynn Crawford; Secretaries, Lynn Crawford / Debby Pizur; Members at Large, Betsy Abert, Lynn Meidam and Jackie Benka

Purchasing protocols – When requests for funds are made, we will talk about the request and vote on the request the following month.

City of SM Bucyrus Foundation Grant funding - BE foundation will give the city \$10 million over 10 years. We do not know when funds will be available but will have some plans ready to go. Perhaps have a separate committee to follow-up on access to BE foundation grant funding. Question was asked – Is the current acting mayor aware of our project? Right now, the Common Council president is acting mayor. There will be a mayoral election in spring. It was suggested that we contact person with the powers that be. It was also suggested that a separate committee be setup to follow through.

4 proposed FOGP projects needing grant funding:

A) Erosion steps project- Thanks to Betsy, we do have plans for the steps and do have bid numbers from a Cudahy firm which is less than \$15,000. The project can be done in spring and can be finished in a few days. The firm has previously done work for Parks. Rick and Betsy wrote a letter to Parks and after our review will be sent. We need parks approval before we can

apply for grants. The railing materials are remnants of the rebuilt ravine railing which we can use for this project. Parks may ask that railings be placed on each side of the steps. Patrick suggested that rather than have west side of the bridge with two railings, perhaps the existing steps on the east side of the bridge should get railings as well.

B) Seven Bridges entrance landscaping – try to make the entrance more attractive.

C) Contract to remove mature invasive trees – We provide the funding; parks to select contractor.

D) Leaning limestone wall rebuild in ravine – Is the wall hazardous? Bids would need to be acquired.

Fundraising Committee: 2022 Garden Tour / Wil-o-Way Art Fair; Calendar update -
Calendar sales are in the black. Still have 35 + calendars to sell. They will be marketed at the South Milwaukee Winter Market and at a SM PAC performance.

Art and craft fair to be held June 25th at Wil-O-Way in combination with Garden Tour.

FOGP will be at Christmas Market, Saturday, Dec. 11th from 9-2 pm at the Salvation Army in Oak Creek, 8853 S. Howell Ave. (near Panera and Target).

Artist in Residence - Gallery224 in Mequon has proposed having an artist in residence in Grant Park through their ARTservancy program. There are no financial responsibilities but are asked to be supportive of the year long residency. Perhaps the artist will do a walk/workshop in the park.

Handmade Quilt donation and silent auction – Bids can be placed at Winter Market mentioned above, and on website and Facebook page. Winner announced Dec. 18th. Please share flyer.

Other

Suburban Soles t-shirts are available.

Area around Wil-o-Way/Wulff had trees blown down

We have a 3 volume set of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) final report on the Oak Creek watershed. It can be viewed at: <https://www.sewrpc.org/SEWRPC/Environment/Restoration-Plan-Oak-Creek-Watershed.htm>

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

Respectfully submitted by
Debby Pizur