

**Friends of Grant Park**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, March 10th at 6:30 pm**

**Attending:** Patrick Hintz, Mary Fortier, Charlene Scherer, Susan Gresser, Chris Marifke, Annemarie Adsen, Deb Sindric, Betsy Abert, Jan Marsh, Tom Flanagan, Frank Gratke, Lynn Meidam, Deb Pizur, Pam Uhrig, Dave Kowalewski, Jody Johnson, Rick Kaiser

**Security:** Carcass of buck killed by arrow was found at the bottom of ravine at east end of Hawthorne. Parks and DNR were notified. Watch for piles of corn used for baiting and report to DNR. New Yorker Magazine reported deer antlers are highly prized. Bridge railing on Oak Leaf Trail was hit by car.

**Treasurer's Report: (tabled until next month)**

**Spring WeedOut planning:** Dates are April 30, May 7, 14, 21. Volunteers are needed as supervisors for students coming May 14th from Oak Creek HS. Contact Rick Kaiser about other potential volunteer groups. Meet at tennis court parking lot at 9am. Gloves and tools will be provided.

April 29 to May 2: **City Nature Challenge**, an international event to invite people into city nature-scapes to photograph wildlife in urban areas and post them at [Citynaturechallenge.org](http://Citynaturechallenge.org). This activity suggested by Lamont Smith from Nature Conservancy. Our WeedOut occurs during the timeframe. Rick suggested asking HS students to take photos and post them. More info at [Citynaturechallenge.org](http://Citynaturechallenge.org).

**YouthWorks** summer volunteer schedule: June 5 to July 29, full day Wednesday (9:30 to noon and 1 to 3pm) and half-day Thursday (9:30 to noon). Please volunteer to supervise students.

A meeting with **Lamont Smith, Nature Conservancy** will be rescheduled for end of March, 28, 29, or 30. If you have a preference let Rick know.

**Suburban Soles update:** Schedule is set. One walk was eliminated when we found we had scheduled three walks in 3 consecutive weeks, rather than every other week.

**Bench for Golf Course:** Jackie Benka received a donation which stipulates some sort of golf-related memorial. One golfer in attendance mentioned benches aren't widely used on the course. Park personal quoted \$3,000 per bench. Golf leagues will be contacted to suggest appropriate memorial and possibly contribute for whatever is chosen. Our suggestion is to plant a tree in more visible area.

**Fundraising Committee:** Memorial brick idea: Where to install? Cost? Who will manage? We'd need to get approval from Parks first. Committee suggests that we concentrate on finishing step project before starting any new projects.

Planning FOGP 2023 calendar with theme of *secrets of Grant Park*. Looking to members for ideas and photos. (Some remaining 2022 calendars were given to Eaton)

Master Gardeners Chris Marifke and Susan Gresser will be showcasing Wil-o-Way gardens in SM Historical Society's **Garden Tour** on June 25. Includes an FOGP outreach table alongside other informational booths.

Brainstorming new fundraising ideas, one new idea is Plein aire Art Class - fundraiser.

**SEWISC grant update:** We requested \$250 to help girdle invasive Japanese tree lilac. Notice of grant award will be March 25<sup>th</sup>. FOPG will match with volunteer hours if grant is received.

**Eaton donation update:** We received an end of March extension to submit estimate for repair of Seven Bridges ravine path.

**Stairs Proposal update:** Materials quote may be 20% higher this year. Waiting to get new quote. Betsy has Park contract but needs to have final quote. Parks need proof that we have funds available in our bank account to pay for project.

**New items:** Looking for new administrator for Facebook page.

Mill Rd. and Milwaukee Ave. park stonework was hit by a car. Needs removal or replacement. First, determine who owns the property, City of SM or County. After that, contact Sean Kelly, park manager, to remind him of damage. Chris said she would follow-up.

SM PAC has a **SmArt Walk/Run** on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Pre-register by May 2. Do we want an outreach table at registrations table? Rick will contact organizers regarding conflicting parking arrangements for WeedOut scheduled for same day, same parking lot?

**Future events:** We need your help on:

**April 9<sup>th</sup>, 9am - 2pm: Spring Market** to be held in Oak Creek at the Salvation Army facility. We need people to help setup booth, take booth down, and sit at the booth to sell items and answer questions. Working on a raffle for quilt and other items

**April 16<sup>th</sup>, 9 am - noon: Spring Beach Cleanup.** Meet at main beach parking lot. We'll supply bags or pails, gloves, and lots of encouragement.

**April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 9 am - 11 am for WeedOut.** Need 4 or 5 volunteers to supervise students. Gloves and tools will be provided. Meet at the tennis court parking lot.

**June 5<sup>th</sup> to July 29<sup>th</sup>** to supervise **YouthWork** students on Wednesday 9:30 to noon and 1 to 3pm and half day Thursday 9:30 to noon. Contact Rick.

**June 25<sup>th</sup>, 9 am - 2 pm: Garden Tour** Table at Wil O Way. Setup, take down and working the event are opportunities to help FOGP. Raffle for quilt.

**Needed by July 4<sup>th</sup>:** high resolution photos with theme of *secrets of Grant Park*. Please submit to [FriendsofGrantParkcalendar@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofGrantParkcalendar@gmail.com) or a committee member.

Our next meeting will be held on April 14th in the golf course clubhouse.

Submitted by  
Deb Pizur