

Friends of Grant Park Meeting Minutes April 14, 2022

Attending: Dave Kowalewski, Laura Hanzel, Rick Kaiser, Robert Kempke, Mary Fortier, Debby Pizur, Lynn Crawford, Betsy Abert, Pam Uhrig, Jan Marsh, Deb Wilhelm, SMPD Officer Chris Rohde, Jody Johnson, Patrick Hintz, Jackie Benka

1. Security –SMPD Officer Rohde is the point person to FOGP and will try and make our meetings. He reviewed records starting March 1 to the day of our meeting. There were 46 police visits made in Grant Park, and 71 deterrent patrols in the neighborhood.
2. Treasurer's Report – \$24,372 total funds
3. SEWISC grant update – Need to sign agreement before we get the check for \$200 to girdle trees. Deb P. will work with Betsy and Rick to determine who will complete grant task requirements.
4. Community Clean Up - April 16 – FOGP partnering with South Milwaukee/St. Francis Health Department, with 3 locations to do clean up in the park. Volunteers need to sign Park's liability waivers. Health Dept. will supply gloves, bags, vests and grabber gadgets for volunteers to use.
5. Spring WeedOut: April 30, May 7, 14, 21 – Rick is recruiting volunteers: SM track team - April 30th; OCHS Ecology Club - May 14. Bill Sasse and Jim Cieslak from Root Pike WIN will help supervise May 14th. Rick has been contacted by a group of employees from GE who may help. Contact Rick if you can help him to recruit NHS members using social media.

Digger's Hotline has been contacted in advance of planting wild ginger in weeded areas. Parks has been contacted to see if they have a place they'd like to have it planted.

Need someone to provide technical advice and technical tasks. Possible sources: MATC students; group members; Nature Conservancy; Tap Root Foundation (helps match nonprofits with professionals). We need a tool where people can register online for FOGP volunteer opportunities. Patrick or Jody will talk to Jim Shelenske about this issue (Jim is now hosting our website).

There may be a conflict with parking lot use on May 14th. SMPAC has a SMart Run/Walk in the park the same time as our WeedOut. Rick has contacted SMPAC and will adjust where people park if necessary.

6. Fundraising committee: Raffle tickets, Silent Auction, Spring Market report – FOGP had a table at SM Market. Quilt raffle drawing on June 25. Painted stones depicting 4 seasons from Sue Medrow were a silent auction item but they were purchased instead for \$100. Stones painted with birds are available as silent auction; drawing on June 25. Members, please consider selling/buying raffle tickets for the quilt \$3 each and 4 for \$10. Only 100 tickets will be sold. To get tickets contact Pam.
7. Suburban Soles update -Brian is posting info in a variety of locations. May 8th first walk of the season.
8. Ravine steps repair and Eaton update. Ravine step repairs is on hold. Just one final form in the format Parks require has to be completed. Members met with landscape firm seeking estimate for ravine pathway project. Jody will send estimate to Eaton Corp. when she receives it. Parks Planning &

Development manager informed us of internal discussions about a greater need to evaluate, repair/reconstruct, and sign the entire trail system at Grant. Perhaps initiatives could align in some way. Doctors Park posted a fundraising sign we might emulate, announcing the need for funds for a particular project's repair.

9. Stonework repairs at Mill Rd. & Milwaukee Ave.- The damaged wall is on SM City property and the city is seeking bids to repair it. Not sure if the large brown park sign will remain there.
10. 2 new Facebook administrators! Mary Fortier and Lynn Meidam volunteered to do updates. Thanks for taking on this task.
11. Other Business – Suggestion was made to host a meeting with local friends' groups, maybe at December's meeting.
Regarding the Oak Creek Watershed and Mill Pond, the SEWRPC study requires core sampling before anything else. Members of Friends of the Mill Pond are applying for a grant to do that.

Lynn motioned to Adjourn, Betsy second. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12th in the golf course clubhouse.

Respectfully submitted by
Debby Pizur

Reminder

Saturday, April 16th, Community Clean Up, 9 am - noon. **Choose from three target areas:** Wil-o-Way parking lot, Area 5 parking lot, or main beach parking lot. Supplies provided! Please pre-register and submit COVID waiver at bit.ly/MilwCoVolWaiver.

WeedOut: Saturday, April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 9 - 11 am. Meet at tennis court lot.

Sunday, May 8; 8:30-10:30 am, **Suburban Soles Migratory Bird Walk**. Meet at the tennis court parking lot. Wear comfy shoes and bring your binoculars. For full schedule of Suburban soles, go to www.FOGP.org/soles.

June 25th Garden Tour – 9 - 2 pm. FOGP will have an information table at Wil-o-Way event. This is your last opportunity to buy raffle tickets for the quilt; drawing at 2 pm.