

Friends of Grant Park Meeting Minutes May 12, 2022

Attending: Ellen Ker, Chris Marifke, Deb Sindric, Annemarie Adsen, Justine Miller, Lynn Meidam, Jan Marsh, Robert Kempke, Alex Bielinski (and Megan), Lyn Weber, Rick Kaiser, Timm Popp, SMPD Officer Chris Rohde, Jody Johnson

Security: Officer Rohde reviewed patrols from April 1 - May 1. A fire was incorrectly reported in a park pavilion that was actually someone starting a fire for grilling. Could a roundabout at College Ave. and Lake Drive slow southbound traffic on Lake Drive? Officer Rohde suggested instead to shift a flashing speed limit sign currently on Lake Drive between Badger and Brookdale Ct. to a location closer to that intersection.

Chris Marifke suggested *SM Works*, an online app that lets the user snap a photo of a downed tree, flooded road or pothole and describe the location and concern. When submitted, the location is pinned on a map, and notifies the appropriate city department for repair.

Treasurer's Report: tabled until next month

ARTservancy: postponed until June meeting. We will publicize resident artist James Toth's visit to encourage the public to meet the artist at that meeting.

We agreed to participate in South Milwaukee's **National Night Out** on Wednesday, Aug. 3rd. Held in the SMPD Garage, this family friendly event features many community organizations, non-profits, and activities for kids to meet and learn about first responders and the work they do. We were also invited to join a **Discover Wellness** event with Cudahy Health Department and others on Thursday, Aug. 18th in Grant Park. FOGP will staff a table that will focus on the environmental dimension of wellness.

Spring WeedOut: Rick Kaiser rescheduled 60 SM track students to come May 21st (April 30 cancelled due to rain). May 14th, 25 students from Oak Creek HS will help, meeting at parking lot near picnic area 3 & 4.

Wild Ginger plants ordered were delayed. Justine Miller suggested plants be shipped in late August to avoid the hottest, dry months of summer. Transplants need to be watered to survive.

Rick asked members to be on the lookout for teepee style forts in the park. Parks Natural Areas staff has removed several in recent years. Seemingly harmless, they become party sites, homeless campsites, and result in crushed fragile vegetation that would otherwise flourish in the woods.

Fundraising Committee: The high cost of printing calendars has stymied production of a calendar for 2023. A suggestion was made to print calendars on demand, rather than buying in bulk where unsold inventory is wasted. Bonfire and Printify were mentioned as potential sources. Another suggestion was to print a smaller calendar.

The (pandemic postponed) Annual Park People **Gala Dinner** will be held Nov. 12th. We are seeking donations for silent auction items or services from businesses and individuals. We have a few items, but need several more.

The SM Historical Society's **Garden Club/Garden Tour** is on June 25th. Wil-o-Way garden is on the tour; FOGP will staff a table there. Raffle tickets for a handcrafted quilt and matching pillow will be sold. The drawing will be held at 2 pm the day of the tour.

Suburban Soles program started on Mother's Day with a well attended Migratory Bird Walk with 46 participants and \$114 in donations! Thanks to Rita Wiskowski and Betsy Abert for leading the walk.

Betsy Abert submitted a *Community Project Request: Park Improvement Project* to Parks for review for the Wil-o-Way area stairs proposal. The request will be on the agenda for a Parks meeting on May 16th. It includes a quote for installation of stairs and railing for \$21,000. A \$600 addendum was attached to the bid for seed and straw mulch to repair any damaged vegetation areas around the site. The material for the steps will be granite, not limestone, because cost is the same, but durability is much longer. The bid is contingent on parks approval of use of railing material available in the service yard.

Eaton Corporation has proposed a donation of \$2,500 toward \$6,000 repair of portions of the Seven Bridges trail. Jody Johnson will complete an application and submit by May 20th to confirm the donation. We need to determine how to fund the remainder. Parks will have to approve first.

Regarding our SEWISC grant to girdle Japanese Tree Lilac, Parks Natural Areas staff does not want us to remove or even 'girdle' any trees until late August since Grant Park has such vital bird habitat at this time of year. Parks staff will not remove any of the tree canopy until after bird migration season.

We had 26 volunteers for the **Community Clean Up** on April 16th. We partnered with South Milwaukee/ St. Francis Health Department who provided many supplies needed. Thank you to Brianna Campbell for her assistance.

Our next meeting will be held on June 9th at 6:30 pm in the golf course clubhouse.

Respectfully submitted by
Jody Johnson