

Friends of Grant Park
Meeting minutes November 10, 2022

Attending: Bill Sasse, Debby Pizur, Jody Johnson, Mary Fortier, Deb Sindric, Annemarie Adsen, Deb Wilhelm, Lynn Meidam, Karin Franklin, Rich Evans, Pam Uhrig, Betsy Abert, Brian Morrison, Jackie Benka

Security – SM Officer Rohde reported 52 safety patrols thru Grant, 1 assisting Sheriff's, 2 after hours, 2 accidents, broken sign, 2 traffic stops. A member reported that Ferch's exterior looked like it had some damage. The officer made a note to follow up on that.

Treasurer's Report – Checking \$3,974; Savings \$86; Park People account \$4,037. Total \$8,097. The \$20,000 designated in May 2021 for steps near Wil-o-Way to reduce erosion has been used. \$21,038 has been paid to Stone Oak Landscaping.

Results for 2023 Board election- Chair, Pam Uhrig; Vice-chair, Debby Pizur; Treasurer, Lynn Crawford; Secretary, Lynn Crawford & Debby Pizur; Members at Large, Mary Fortier, Jackie Benka, Jody Johnson

MKE Parks 5 yr. projected budget – As reported in the news, Park funding will be drastically cut in a few years. Suggestion to have forum perhaps in spring, inviting state representative and other elected officials. Perhaps do forum with other friend's groups. Suggestion to require park stickers for vehicles entering the park. Perhaps have someone from Waukesha County Parks talk to us about how they implemented their sticker program. Parks are being well used due to people rediscovering the parks during the pandemic.

Budget – If you need any funds for 2023 projects you are aware of, please submit the amounts to Lynn Crawford or Debby Pizur for inclusion in the budget.

Planning ahead: Project funding request for January – Eaton asked us to submit a proposal in January for projects we'd like to work on in 2023.

BE Foundation has released a grant application for funding up to \$25,000. Please submit ideas before the next meeting, so we can narrow down our choices and can vote at December's meeting. Letters of interest are due March 1st. Applications are due in April, with notification in January of 2024.

Marker for completed Steps project – to inform public of FOGP sponsorship with BE Foundation and Eaton support on a step riser or plaque. There was a consensus to go ahead, perhaps ask Dave K. to make a sign. Jackie will research and coordinate.

Fundraising committee report: Trek 'n Treat summary (see attachments); Calendar sales –

For 2023 event, Pam recommended T'nT date change to second Sunday in October (the 8th); she suggest raising fee to \$3 and raise the number we can accommodate to 300. 2022 event netted \$816.13.

Calendars – 36 calendars sold so far. Note reminder below to see where calendars can be purchased.

Friends of Grant Park Art Fair, July 23, 2023. Seeking worthy artists & craftspeople for event. Staging in area 5 brown pavilion. Fundraising Committee could use a volunteer to coordinate making and selling food.

December Meeting/Social: Historic Holiday Party with Nels Monson – Monthly meeting starts at 5:30; Holiday Party at 7 pm; Nels will speak at 7:15 pm. Please contact Jody if you want to bring any holiday cookies, snacks or beverages. A few holiday decorations will be displayed to make it more festive.

Additional comments. Beautiful new meeting announcement sign at front entrance! Cost \$126. Thank you to Sue Hebner for her assistance.

Thanks to Rick K., trees were planted across from Seven bridges. This year over 1,000 Japanese tree lilac were removed with grant funding assistance and labor provided by Parks natural areas team.

Thanks to Betsy for shepherding the step project to completion. She recently seeded adjacent exposed areas and trees were planted by steps.

Thanks to Dave Kowalewski for the 7 bluebird birdhouses inscribed with “Friends of Grant Park”. If you can volunteer to help monitor the bluebird trail next year, contact Betsy or Lynn Crawford.

Bill Sasse reported that Root Pike Watershed Initiative Network was doing a lot of projects, plus they just received 4 new grants. They plan to try and work with private property owners to do restoration. Currently working on \$400,000 project in Franklin, restoring 40 acres of restoration and stream work.

Bill suggested writing letter to County to recognize the Oak Creek redirect project along parkway below dam.

Reminders:

***FOGP 2023 Calendars** are available for purchase in South Milwaukee at Avenue Coffee House; Mari’s Flowers, Wine & Gifts; Skyline Deli; Parkway Floral; and at Kelly Senior Center in Cudahy. Also at Christmas Market at Oak Creek’s Salvation Army on Dec. 10th - \$15 each or 2/\$25; \$10 for members at Dec. and Jan. meetings.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec. 8th, at 5:30 pm instead of 6:30 pm, to accommodate the holiday party afterward.

Respectfully submitted by

Debby Pizur