

Friends of Grant Park Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 13th, 6:30pm in the brown pavilion at Area 5A

Present-Carla Uphill, Mary Fortier, Robert Fliss, Rober Kempke, Chris Sharrow, Dave Kowalewski, Lyn Weber, Robert Dobson, Rick Kaiser, Ane Schlingen, Lynn Meidam, Chris Bosetti, Fletcher Vail, Jody Johnson, Debby Pizur, Jan Marsh, Betsy Abert, Bill Sasse, Patrick Hintz, Jackie Benka, Pam Uhrig

Security Report -- A man committed suicide in the service area and was found on July 6. Man appeared to be homeless. Police had a prompt and professional response. Park employees were offered grief counseling. Suggestion was made to post suicide hotline number and Human Concern info in kiosks.

Treasurer's (report is attached) – Suburban Soles speakers fee for those that wish to be compensated is \$100.

Golf Course Garden – Golf course Director asked FOGP's help to weed and keep up the gardens around the clubhouse. Several ideas were given, perhaps a pollinator garden or shrubs. Golf course employees may end up maintaining the gardens. FOGP volunteers are working with the Director to formulate a plan. Memorial money may be used but there must be a sign to mark the memorial.

Parks Foundation vote – there was a brief discussion about Park Foundations letter that will go to elected officials. Carla moved to support the coalition; Lynn M seconded.

Will-O-Way steps plaque update – Volunteers took a boulder from the park to Wendt monument company to have the plaque secured on the rock. A motion was made by Jody and seconded by Lynn W to pay \$150 to mount the plaque. Motion passed.

Art Fair-July 23, 10am-2pm (volunteers needed for all shifts, please wear FOGP or Green Shirt) Patrick will ask the football team to volunteer to help artists move their items from the parking lot to the pavilion. Thank you to all who have volunteered to help.

Suburban Soles – Betsy is hosting on July 16th. Speaker is an MATC teacher who will speak on Native Plants. Sunday, July 30th will be about local history, given by longtime SM resident, 10am at Area 5A.

Rick's Youth Groups – Youthworks is an organization that arranges mission trips for youth. Youthworks has been working with us for 6 years to remove invasives in the park. They work all day on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. They missed one week this summer due to the Canadian fire smoke in the air.

Aug. 3-Community Night Out – Mary and Lynn C will work the booth.

Aug. 26-Grant Park Beach Bonfire – Partnering with Mill Pond. Volunteers needed to sell s'mores, light luminaries,tend the fire.

July 4th feedback – Volunteers handed out garbage bags to picnickers. It was reported that the crowd was a bit small than previous years.

Bonsai Show rescheduled for June 22, 2024

Other Business-

Mill Road Bridge – suggestion to contact DOT to ask about progress.

Watershed Plan - Mill Pond sediment sampling report is at the SM Library. You can't take it out of the library, but you can copy it. Sampling materials are contaminated and any sediment that is removed must be disposed of by a regulated disposal company.

Jan had a conversation with Chris Kubachi, county engineer, about the testing of sediment in the Mill Pond. Five samples were taken. The County will commence a community engagement program in the fall to inform the general public. Jan requested that the County Engineer talk to our group ahead of public meetings. The Watershed Plan is complete and will guide recommendations for all future action. Who is the person/agency to warn people of the pollution? Thank you to Frank for bringing this issue to our attention at a previous meeting.

Sympathy to the Wilhelm family on the recent passing of Joe.

Bill S. shared the 2021-2022 annual report of the Root-Pike WIN, Watershed Initiative Network.

Seven Bridges – All the broken rails were fixed this past month after a mother and her child leaned on a railing which collapsed, and they fell into the creek. Last year we voted that improving the ravine's path was going to be our next project. A suggestion was made to hire a surveyor to determine priorities and how to repair the paths and perhaps construct boardwalks in the ravine rather than stone paths. We need to communicate with Parks to make sure there is approval to move forward. Incidents in the county parks can be reported on their web site.

Harley Davidson held a bonfire event on July 13th on the beach.

Tim Backes play is going on at Wulff Lodge for 3 evenings starting Thursday night. A few tickets are left.

Chris Bosetti – Congratulations to her on her recent retirement from SM Middle School.

Jan moved to adjourn; Betsy seconded.

Respectfully submitted by Debby Pizur

