

Friends of Grant Park Minutes

Aug 10, 2023

Present: Corie Fitch, Alex Fitch, Keith Sobczak, Debby Pizur, Lynn Meidam, Jody Johnson, Betsy Abert, Robert Kempke, Mary Fortier, Rick Kaiser, Lynn Crawford, Carla Uphill, Sam Orlich, Susan Gresser, Chris Marifke, Pam Uhrig

Treasurer's Report

Attached

Grant Park Beach Walk, Saturday, Aug 26, 5-7 pm-If anyone has a fire ring or wagon, sled or a toboggan that can be used at the event, please let Pam know. Volunteers are needed to assist in the event and make s'mores. If it rains the beach walk will be cancelled. Sponsored by Friends of the Mill Pond, Ferch's, and Friends of Grant Park

SM Open Doors, Saturday Sept 9, 10 am – 3 pm The two time slots for volunteers are 9:15-12:30 and 12:30 to 3:45. Parking for volunteers is at Wil-O-Way, no parking at Wulff Lodge. This is the South Milwaukee Open Doors. The Historic Milwaukee Open Doors will be held Sept 23-24, 2023.

7 Bridges Beach Cleanup, Saturday, September 16, 9 am – 12 noon At Seven Bridges Trail Beach, meet at Area 5 parking lot, not at the main Grant Park Beach. Friends of Grant Park is partnering with Alliance for the Great Lakes, which collects data on the trash found.

Art Fair outcome - The art fair was a huge success with positive feedback coming in from artists, fair goers and Friends of Grant Park members who attended. Keith S and Dave K were a big help to the artists, transporting gear from the lot to the pavilion. Lynn M and Mary F received many comments on how well publicized the fair was. Thirty artists paid for booths and twenty-nine were able to attend. A question was raised about the \$399 of liability insurance that was required. When an event is large and includes vendors or commerce, the Park People insurance is not sufficient. A date for the art fair in July of 2024 will be secured in December 2023.

Kiosk Update- Dave K has finished the trim on the kiosk at the trailhead of Seven Bridges. Thanks Dave, it looks great. At one time inside the kiosk were pictures of the lannon stones being installed at Seven Bridges. Pam U will check where those photos are now.

Calendar Fundraiser Update- There have been enough photos submitted. Ideas for written calendar content in the theme of "Tiny to Tremendous" are needed by the end of August.

Fall Weedout Dates - Oct 7, 14, 21, 28 The weedout times will vary between 9 am – 1 pm to accommodate the volunteer hours needed by UW-M students and 9 am – 11 am for the Oak Creek student volunteers. Times for each date will be announced. Check the website, fogp.org, for further updates.

Suburban Soles The programs for the summer are underway and going well. Brian Morrison will lead the August 27th Suburban Soles, Tree-Mendous Love for Trees, 10 am at Area 5. Not Legal "Patrol Grant Park with Warden Anderson is Sept. 10, 10 am at the beach. Suburban Soles t-shirts are for sale. In addition there are some custom-made Grant Park t-shirts for sale.

Special Donation to Friends of Grant Park - Therese Gripenrog and several other DNR employees sent a \$100 memorial in honor of their friend and DNR co-worker, Marsha Burzynski, who passed away in late 2022. In addition, they donated a special oak tree, planted in Grant Park, in her honor, through Milwaukee County Parks. Therese's son created a cleverly worded dedication tag with a 3D printer to attach to the memorial tree and he would be willing to create unique tags for any other tree donations.

Trek 'n Treat Oct 8 1-4 pm Donations are expected from Ace Hardware, Pic 'n Save, Piggly Wiggly, Target, Walgreens, Walmart and Farm and Fleet. Three hundred small treats at each of 15-20 stations are needed. Volunteers are needed for three registration booths and other tasks.

Garbage at the beach - This is a continuing problem. Ferch's has labeled trash bins for trash generated from sales of their products and contracts with a company to remove that trash. Discarded mattresses have been seen near Mill Pond where the fisherman often fish.

Pot holes in the park roads - They are filled by park staff as time allows, but staff is stretched thin with other duties. Continued concerns about the water that seeps onto the sidewalk leading down to the beach parking lot.

Plaque for new steps near Wil-O-Way bridge- The monument company is working on affixing the plaque to a boulder that will be placed at the top of the new steps.

Clubhouse gardens - Undertaking this project is more than our group can handle at this time. The recommendation by our master gardeners is to postpone the gardens until spring and to plant trees and shrubs that do not require continuous maintenance. A suggestion was made that perhaps the golf course could seek a variety of community members could take on very small plots.

Respectfully submitted by
Lynn Crawford