

## Friends of Grant Park Minutes November 9, 2023

**Present:** Robert Kempke, Lynn Weber, Lori Locke, Mary Fortier, Dave Kowalewski, Deb Pizur, Lynn Crawford, Bill Sasse, Deb Wilhelm, Pam Uhrig

**Security:** A small alligator that had been illegally released into Lake Michigan was removed by the police. Using golf carts to harvest mushrooms has been witnessed. It is illegal to harvest or remove any plants or fungi from county parks.

**Treasurer's Report**

Attached. Cash Summary:

Grant Park funds held by Park People 9/30 ...	\$16,662.07
Less: Johnson Landscape bill to be paid.....<	\$1,210.00>
Petty Cash held by Lynn Crawford.....	\$435.34
Change in cash boxes, held by Lynn Crawford..	\$55.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$15,942.41</u></b>

**Elections**

A motion was made by Mary F, seconded by Lynn M to allow a voice vote for all offices listed on the ballot. Motion approved and all stated officers and members at large were elected unanimously for 2024.

Chairperson- Pam Uhrig

Vice Chairperson-Deb Pizur

Secretary-Deb Pizur and Lynn Crawford, sharing the role

Treasurer-Lynn Crawford

Members at Large-Mary Fortier and Jody Johnson

**Weedout** Great turnout by all the volunteers who have worked in the park. Most recently 29 new trees were planted. Amazing job by Rick K hauling buckthorn to cover the social trails. The weedout program is set for spring. Final report sent to The Park People from Rick stated that we had 4 spring dates, 10 summer dates, and three fall with a total of 259 volunteers who worked 779.5 hours.

**SEWISC** Friends of Grant Park is a member of South Eastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium. Pam U, Rick K, and Lynn C attended an awards ceremony and presentation by SEWISC at Havenwoods State Forest. Julia Robson, who previously was an assistant to Brian Russert and started local citizen scientist programs, was the recipient of SEWISC's Sweat Equity Award.

Guest Speaker Jim Reinartz offered strategies for restoring natural areas using a variety of native competing plants and seed mixes to reduce invasive species.

**Holiday Meeting on Dec 14** In the past we have had a short FoGP meeting at 6 pm, followed by the holiday gathering with speakers at 6:30 pm. Current Mayor Jim Shelenske and former Mayor Eric Brooks may be asked to speak at the Dec 14 meeting in which the general public will be invited. Members of the Mill Pond will be requested to please keep the holiday decorations up from their annual fundraising tea, also held at the Grant Park Clubhouse.

**South Milwaukee Christmas Market Saturday, December 9, 2023 - 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Salvation Army 8853 S. Howell Ave., Oak Creek**

The wren houses made by Dave K will be sold at the market, along with an explanation of how wren houses in residential areas benefit bluebirds living on open areas, such as the golf courses. The FoGP 2024 Calendars, notecards, and a few t-shirts will also be sold at the market.

**E-bikes on the Oak Leaf Trail** At the last meeting the speed of E-bikes on the Oak Leaf Trail was brought up. Pam U contacted Milwaukee County Parks to see if E-bikes had been raised and the response was that no one has mentioned concerns about E-bikes.

**Newsletter** Jody J put together an outstanding newsletter summarizing our successes over the past year. Well done, Jody! The newsletter will accompany the calendar at the South Milwaukee Market.

**Goals for 2024** A suggestion was made to start with Milwaukee County Parks to seek their priorities within Grant Park and in the Seven Bridges area. The Forestry Department may also be a resource. Their input can be used for our grant writing. Other goals may include: The kiosk area at the main entrance bridge to Seven Bridges--covering the bare areas around the kiosk with the mulch that is available in the park is a possibility, along with planting a few easy to maintain flowers. Signposts to mark trails would be helpful. The gargoyles continue to be a focus.

**Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network (WIN)** Bill S updated us on the Root-Pike WIN group's progress, including restoration at Cliffside Park in Racine County.

Respectfully submitted by

Lynn Crawford