

Friends of Grant Park Meeting minutes for June 13, 2024

Present: Cynthia and Mark Maurice, Lyn Weber, Robert Kempke, Mary Fortier, David Allen, Anne Schlimgen, Carla Uphill, Jody Johnson, Barb Johnsen, Debby Pizur, Jan Marsh, Betsy Abert, Jerry Connor, Deb Wilhelm, Pam Uhrig

Welcome - David, Cynthia, Mark, Barb and Anne

Security- There was a discussion of people being in the park after it was closed. Currently, gates are not closed at night. Previously, we were told to contact Milwaukee County Sheriffs, SM police or MKE County Park Rangers (414-257-7777) if you see anything unlawful. It was reported by a park neighbor that they see officers patrol the park on a regular basis.

Treasurer's Report - please see attached

Details about upcoming events:

Plant Sale - Earned \$150. Another plant sale will be held during the Bonsai Show. If you have plants you want to donate, please bring them the day of the event, June 22 from 9am to 4pm.

Suburban Soles - This week the talk will be on Saturday, June 15. A generous grant was received from WE Energies in the amount of \$850 to cover expenses. Thank you to all our presenters and FOGP volunteers that host each talk. Last SS had approximately 20 people attend. We received \$21 in donations.

Bonsai Show and Exhibit - June 22 from 9am to 4pm in the pavilion in Area 5.

Art Fair - Ad for fair is in SM Summer Neighborhood magazine. Volunteers are needed and a sign-up sheet will be available at the July FOGP meeting. Artists are donating items for a raffle. On Facebook, please like art fair posts to raise post's profile.

Shakespeare in the Park, presented by Optimist Theatre, July 13 and 14 in Grant Park - Plays to be presented are Hamlet 5:30(13th), Another Midsummer Night's Dream 3pm(13th), The Comedy of Romeo & Juliet 12:30(13th). Theatre Games and Adventures 2pm(13th) They asked FOGP to help promote the event. See optimisttheatre.org for updates.

Community Night Out, Aug. 5, 5:30-9:30pm - FOGP attends to educate and promote FOGP.

Fundraising Committee/Grant Proposals - Thank you to Lynn Crawford for writing the Youth Foundation grant this year. We have not heard from Eaton Corp submitted by Jody.

Other –

7 Bridges Proposal-Parks has accepted our proposal to hire Indigo Ecological Designs to create a plan that can be used to support grant requests to do repairs in Seven Bridges ravine. The company has asked for \$2,500 more than what we had budgeted, which was \$10,000. Indigo will team with Geosyntec and Milw. County Parks. At the next meeting a motion will be made to spend the additional funds. While Indigo will help with writing grants, we will need to double our efforts to raise funds as FOGP has to demonstrate their commitment to the project.

Kiosks-Carbonite panels were purchased to replace any broken plexiglass doors. Carbonite is a more resilient material and should hold up better against vandalism. Thank you to Jody and her husband David for doing the repairs.

Refrigerator in the pavilion may need to be repaired before the art fair.

Tours-Recently, there have been requests for tours of the park. Pam, Debby and Rick gave one to Oak Creek High School students in May. June 14th, OSHER from UWM will take a tour. On June 20th a youth group from the SM library will get a tour.

Youthworks will be volunteering in the park again this summer. Rick once again is leading the groups on Wednesday and Thursday. The groups will be working on Dames Rocket, Burdock, and in July Japanese Lilac and Buckthorn. Other species parks would like us to work on are Oriental Bittersweet and Porcelain Berry.

Respectfully submitted by Debby Pizur