

Friends of Grant Park
Meeting Minutes for July 11, 2024
6:30pm at the pavilion in Area 5A.

Present: Robert Kempke, Chris Sinicki, Jody Johnston, Lyn Weber, Carla Uphill, Debby Pizur, Mary Fortier, Annette Gifford, Chris Marifke, Susan Gresser, Bill Sasse, Pam Uhrig

Security – Officer Reynolds – Activity in the park since June 1: 69 calls, 3 animal complaints, 3 found property, canine called out to sniff out wedding ring. 4 assistants call from other agencies, 2 parking violations. 45 patrols, 1 stolen vehicle recovered, a call for locked out car and suspicious person. Rangers are ticketing vehicles that are in the park after closing. There was a comment that the beach has a lot of people at times and the parking lot can get very congested. Officer Reynolds will let Chief know of concern. Neighbors also concerned about people going to the park after dark and parking on side streets. People in the park may call SMPD but they can't always respond, city calls take precedence over county calls.

Treasurer's Report - Please see attached

7 Bridges project – members voted to spend an additional \$2,000 to Indigo Ecological Design to cover fees for the Assessment and Restoration plan. Carla made a motion, seconded by Mary F. to increase the fee an additional \$2,000. Indigo is working on getting 2 grants to pay for projects.

Suburban Soles -Thank you to all the FOGP volunteers and speakers so far this year. Chris M., who led the talk at Wil-O-Way discovered that the bridge at the bottom of the new steps FOGP put in, was for Fred Wulff to use to get to the tourist camp. A grant was received from We Energies Foundation in the amount of \$850. We will purchase new signs.

Art Fair – July 21- volunteer signup was passed around. Thank you to all those that signed up.

Shakespeare in the Park, July 13 – Fundraising committee asked if anyone wanted to work a FOGP table at event. Thank you to Annette and Carla for volunteering to hand out flyers.

Community Night Out, Aug. 5, 5:30-9:30pm - Mary F. will work the table. If you would like to help, contact Mary.

Fund Raising Committee – Looking at having another history calendar. Have purchased **Friendly Face** t-shirts and will have them ready for art fair.

Pam reported that the Cudahy Pulaski Park Friends music festival brings in quite a lot of money for the group. If you have suggestions, the fundraising committee is always looking for new ideas.

Weedout – Dates: October 5, 12, 19 and 26. Rick is working with youth groups this summer taking down buckthorn, Oriental Bittersweet, Japanese Tree Lilac, and taking cuttings to reinforce brush fences. He and his volunteers have done an incredible amount of work battling invasives in the park.

Kiosks – Jody and husband are working on revamping kiosks.

Other – Park People membership is \$40/year. They are having an annual meeting the same time as our Aug. meeting. Pam will attend and Vice-chair Debby will run the next meeting.

Chris Sinicki – State Representative introduced herself and expressed her interest in our group.

Milwaukee County proposed the fine be raised to \$5,000 from \$200 for illegal dumping in the parks.

A suggestion was made for the playground near Grobschmidt pool to be weeded.

Details about upcoming events:

Shakespeare in the City, Saturday, July 13th in the area south of the pond near the tennis courts parking lot. Plays will be performed starting at 12:30 with the last performance at 5:30pm. Bring a chair and enjoy free theatre by the professionals. Go to optimisttheatre.org for more info.

Suburban Soles: Watersheds and Water Quality, July 14, 10am-noon, Area 7 playground. Join Milwaukee Riverkeepers Program Manager Leah Holloway to follow the journey of a drop of water as it flows through Grant Park into Lake Michigan. Learn about regional water quality and how we can all contribute to the health of our waterways.

Friends of Grant Park Art Fair, Sunday, July 21, Area 5A pavilion, 10am-2pm. 35 artists representing a variety of mediums displaying and selling their works. Art raffle, sales of food and refreshments.

Suburban Soles: Dragonflies & Damselflies, July 28, 1pm-3pm, Mill Pond. Join naturalist Jamie Schiesel to observe the life and ways of dragonflies and damselflies.

Robert moved that the meeting be adjourned. Carla seconded. Adjourned 8pm

Minutes submitted by Debby Pizur