

**FRIENDS OF GRANT PARK
MINUTES
AUG 8, 2024**

Attendance: Debby Pizur, Robert Kempke, Mary Fortier, Davel Allen, Annemarie Adsen, Lynn Weber, Rick Kaiser, Jody Johnson, Adam Sadik

Announcement: Chairperson Pam is at the Park People Annual Meeting, taking place at this time, and will report back.

Security: No officer present to discuss security. Evidence of unofficial camping south of the yacht club has been seen.

Art Fair Wrap Up Committee Meeting

Participants requested more parking and in response ideas were discussed such as shuttling artists in from more distant parking areas, posting signs showing additional parking near the tennis courts, extending the hours to reduce the number of cars per hour. Jody will survey artists on extended hours through Survey Monkey. A comment was received that the step on the stage where the raffle is held could be made more visible by a strip of brightly colored tape. Vendors appreciated the complimentary beverage tickets—since vendors often had assistants with them, it was suggested 2 beverage tickets could be provided in the future.

Community Night Out A success. Busy and beautiful weather. Participants showed a high degree of awareness of and enthusiasm for Trek ‘n Treat. \$3 of donations were received.

Grant Park Bird Feeders A couple volunteers have stepped forward, including FoGP member, Robert, to continue to fill and maintain the bird feeders when Betsy “retires” from attending to the feeders' daily duties for decades. A question was raised on where the feed should be stored. Currently Betsy stores it at her home. An estimate of the total annual expense was \$2500 per year of which Grant Park has budgeted several hundred dollars over past years. Donations earmarked for the birdfeeder have supplemented that budget.

Grant Park Bluebirds The bluebird nesting season has just been completed. In addition to bird boxes at Grant Park Golf Course, there are boxes at Warnimont Golf Course. Final numbers will be provided at the next meeting.

Seven Bridges Project \$500 from an anonymous donor was received to cover the additional expense of the Seven Bridges Project.

Suburban Soles

Aug 25 is Astronomy with Dean Chapman at Wulff Lodge, 8-9 pm

Sept 9 is Seven Bridges History with Nels Munson at the entrance to Seven Bridges, 10-noon

Open Doors South Milwaukee Sep 7, 10 am to 3 pm. Friends of Grant Park will offer water and literature for participants who wish to take a self-guided tour of Wulff Lodge.

Weedouts Fall weedouts will take place Saturday mornings in Oct and maybe the first week in Nov. Tree planting is an ambitious aspect of the program. Rick will order fencing equipment soon for the new trees. Stapling mesh over new tree buds is another method to protect young trees from deer. Tulle material to cover the entire young tree was also suggested.

Weedout activities will include working on fencing and removing invasive Buckthorn. UWM students will volunteer. Japanese Lilac has been hand pulled, lopped and handsawed, allowing the newly cleared areas to be seeded with native species.

Trek 'n Treat—Oct 6 from 1 pm to 4 pm. Volunteers are needed from about noon to 4 pm. Donations of candy from area businesses will be sought. The cost to sponsor one Trek 'n Treat station is about \$40-\$50. Cousins is donating 300 coupons for sandwiches.

South Milwaukee Cousins fundraiser on Mon, Sept 16 from 4-7 pm. Friends of Grant Park will receive 20% of sales during this timeframe.

2025 Calendar Sunrise/sunset photos for the 2025 Grant Park calendar are needed by Aug 31, 2024.

Send submissions to friendsofgrantparkcalendar@gmail.com

Next Year's Beer Garden Friends of Grant Park could host a potluck at some point during the beer garden to reach out to the community and new members.

Gargoyle t-shirts "Find a friendly Face" Logo. \$20 each. Members pay \$18.

Shape of Seven Bridges Comments on the Friends of Grant Park Facebook page have indicated many people are frustrated with the condition of Seven Bridges and the ravine. Betsy replied to the comments, providing information about our restoration efforts.

Grant Park Seven Bridges Beach Cleanup Sept 14, 9 am to noon, partnering with Alliance for the Great Lakes. Meet at Area 5 parking lot. Please bring large, 25 lb bags such as salt bags, birdseed bags, dog food bags to the next FoGP meeting on Sept 12 or bring them to the beach cleanup. Litter can be put in these bags instead of acquiring more bags.

Suggestions Do a 5-k run to raise money, such as to support a lifeguard at the Grant Park beach. Install fishing line receptacles for used lines and bait. Adam volunteered to build a prototype receptacle to bring to the next meeting. Friends of Mill Pond might also be interested.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Crawford