

**FRIENDS OF GRANT PARK
MINUTES
September 12, 2024**

Attendance: Keith Sobczek, David Allen, Judy Kempke, Robert Kempke, Rick Kaiser, Mary Fortier, Jody Johnson, Sam L. Orlich, Anne Schlimgen, Jeff Ziebelman, Lynn Crawford, Debby Pizor, Deb Wilhelm, Jerry Connor, Bill S., Annemarie Adsen, Bill Sasse

Security: No officers were present this evening. If you have security issues, call 414-257-7777 or go online at <https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Parks/Contact> If people are seen chopping trees in the park, call the rangers, 414-257-7777 There has been a problem with stop signs and other signs in the park being stolen. Fast bikes on dirt trails in the park have been a hazard; in fact, bikes are not even allowed on the dirt trails, only the paved trails.

Limits of speed rather than the source of power are the issue on the Oak Leaf Trail. County Supervisor Steven Shea is the contact person for questions on ebikes in the parks.

Suburban Soles: The final Suburban Soles event focused on history and had 40 members in attendance. Thank you to all hosts for Suburban Soles throughout the season. Donation totals will be provided at the next meeting.

Open Doors: Over 50 people attended and \$37 was taken in.

Main Beach cleanup on Saturday, Sept. 14.

Cousins Fundraiser for Friends of Grant Park: Monday, Sept 16, 2024 from 4-7 pm.

South Milwaukee Fall Fest at the Market, Thurs Sept 26, 3-7 pm. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Contact Pam.

Weedout and Tree Planting: Oct 4 many trees will be picked up. UW-M volunteers will plant on Oct 5. An "easy-go" cart for watering trees during planting requires a park employee to oversee the cart. Areas for tree planting near the streets of Lake and Park have been reviewed. Some trees planted in the past have been pulled out. Vandalism to newly planted trees is common in Grant and other parks. Using brush from the brush piles to protect the newly planted trees was suggested.

Garbage has been discovered in areas that have been planted, meaning there has been human disruption. One suggestion to deter the illegal nighttime gatherings is to open up a view of the planted area so it is visible from Lake Drive.

Weedouts: Oct 5, 12, 19, 26. Rick is overseeing these weedouts, as he has done in the past.

Replacement signs in Seven Bridges: Currently one-way screws and locknuts are used to attach the signs to poles. The signs discourage off-trail hiking, which ruins the ravine. The cost is \$500 for the 12 signs. A vote on the signs will be taken at the next meeting.

Grant Park is the most attended park in Milwaukee County! Natural Areas Coordinator Brian Russert shared this fact, affirming the need for protective measures and resources for Grant Park.

Trek 'n Treat Oct. 6th, 1 to 4pm, Area 5A We have more donations this year than past. A significant number of VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to help out before and during the event. Contact Pam.

Suggestion—ask for donations for cider and popcorn this year instead of stating a specific price. An easily accessed QR code for donations would be helpful.

Project idea for the future: In advance of next year's traveling beer garden in Grant Park, request a grant from Sprecher Brewery for a specific project.

Seven bridges ravine project: Indigo is working on grants. Brian Russert, Betsy, Rick, Pam, Jacob the trails coordinator, Indigo's landscape architect and engineer and Ian with Geosyntec, walked through Grant Park to review the areas that are part of the project. Designs to restore vegetation, trails and erosion were discussed. The project is one-quarter to one-third complete.

Fishing line container: The prototype is 4 inches in diameter and may need to be increased to 6 inches. The cost is \$50 per container. The fishing line disposal containers are attached to light poles. Thank you, Adam, for creating and sharing this prototype.

Idea on School Outreach: Fishing line containers in Mill Pond have been taken, vandalized and used as garbage cans. This abuse prompted the idea to go into the local schools to explain to the students about the parks and how vandalizing wastes their parents' money.

Park roads: Repair of Grant Park roads is in the Milwaukee County budget for 2025. FoGP can write a letter to public officials on the deteriorating roads in the park.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Crawford