

Friends of Grant Park Minutes

February 13, 2025

Present: Deb Pizur, Carla Uphill, Mary Fortier, Jody Johnson, Lyn Weber, Dave Kowalewski, Jan Marsh, Betsy Abert, Chris Marifke, Lynn Crawford, Pam Uhrig

Security: No issues at this time.

Treasurer's Report:	Cash Box	\$ 80.00
	Petty Cash held by Lynn Crawford	\$ 477.34
	Held by Park People on 1/1/25	\$16,671.00
	TOTAL	\$ 17,228.34

Bird feeder The challenge to keep raccoons and deer out of the birdfeeders continues. Old food such as sausage, baloney, peanut butter or popcorn should not be left for the birds. A sub-committee to manage the birdfeeder is needed, therefore a mailing will be sent to all email addresses on file seeking participants. Issues to discuss will include where to store the birdseed and perhaps a change in location of the feeder to Area 4. Sean Kelly, Unit Manager of Grant Park, will be contacted by the sub-committee.

7 Bridges Plan Update We did not get the DNR grant that we applied for. We are in the process of applying for a grant with the Fund for Lake Michigan for \$95,000, which will pay for the surveys, permits, etc. for the restoration but not the implementation.

Suburban Soles Most dates are filled from May 4 to Aug 24 for this program. All dates should be finalized by March. Lyn Weber will be working with Deb Pizur on Suburban Soles.

Spring Weedout and Volunteer Hours The 2024 totals have been submitted to Rick K. If you have not sent in your total volunteer hours in Grant Park, please email them to Rick. Do not include the Weedout hours because Rick has already tallied them. For 2025, the chairperson running the Friends of Grant Park meeting will be able to calculate the total hours of those in attendance at each meeting from the sign-in sheet.

The Park People will do a Weedout “Kickoff,” which will be at Grant Park on Apr 26, 2025.

May 3, 10, and 17 Weedout dates for 2025 have participants; more people are always needed. Weedouts begin at 9 am and everyone is welcome to participate, even if you only have an hour to spare. The focus will be on removing Garlic Mustard and Dames Rocket, both invasive species. Check our website, fogp.org before you come for location and updates.

Newsletter Jody J will be sending the next newsletter to all emails on file. Thank you, Jody, for creating this newsletter.

South Milwaukee Market Mar 15, 2025, from 9 am to 2 pm at South Milwaukee High School. FoGP will have a table so stop by and say hello. Cards, t-shirts, wren houses, and more will be for sale.

Grant Park Beach Cleanup Saturday April 19, 9 am to noon. Even if you only have an hour to spare, come anyway!

Signs in Other Parks Pam U checked with the parks trail coordinator about signs for do's and don'ts in the park and shared examples of signs at Wehr Nature Center. There is no standard format for posting rules for county parks' trails. Especially problematic is the off-trail damage created by foot traffic and remote-controlled cars that run along the top of the stone walls and slopes, and people picking and removing plants from the park.

The 7 Bridges kiosk has one sign that warns of a fine for use of remote-controlled cars. Signs are needed near the Area 5 parking lot leading onto the main path, the 7 Bridges main entrance and Area 7 and 8 parking lot. Anyone seeing violations of parks regulations should call the MKE County Parks Ranger Patrol **414-567-8433**

Grant Park Usage A trail counter on the north end of the Oak Leaf Trail, operating from August to December in 2024, showed 383 people used the trail/park per day in August; 52 people used the trail/park per day in December.

Natural Areas Monitoring Activities Pam U shared 4 citizen science options available March through December offered by Milwaukee County Parks Natural Areas Program that spanned bluebird management, the bumble bee brigade, turtle monitoring, and salamander counting. For more info, contact ParksComSci@milwaukeecountywi.gov

Seeking Grants in the Future Looking to future grants, if we wish to receive them from foundations that advocate for water, then our mission statement should include the fact that we care about water quality. A proposal to change the wording of the Friends of Grant Park mission statement will be voted on in the next meeting. The proposed mission statement is:

Our mission is to conserve natural areas of the park, including water quality; enhance unique features of the park; encourage use of the park; and to provide a mechanism for private contributions to supplement public funding of Grant Park.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lynn Crawford