

**FRIENDS OF GRANT PARK
MINUTES
March 13, 2025**

Attendance: Jason Blochowicz, Lynn Blochowicz, Robert Kempke, Jean Trimble, Julie Dixon-Seidl, Mary Fortier, Barb Johnson, Anamarie Adsen, Deb Sindric, Carla Uphill, Jerry Connor, Debra Wilhelm, Dean Schmit, Karin Franklin, Rich Evans, Jody Johnson, Chris Marifke, Susan Gresser, Jan Marsh, Betsy Abert, Jocelyn Kroetz-Jones, David Allen, Lynn Crawford, Patrick Hintz, Frank Gratke, Pam Uhrig

Security Not much even on the 4 pm to midnight shift.

If dead birds are found along the Lake Michigan shore, call the DNR, 608-267-0866. It is best not to bring dogs to the beach now as it is not certain how the bird flu spreads. If you are immune compromised, check with local health dept. Unhealthy raccoons have been seen.

Treasury Rept

Cash Boxes		\$ 255.00	
Petty Cash held by Lynn Crawford		\$ 302.34	
Held by Park People on 1/1/25		\$ 16,671.00	
	TOTAL ASSETS		\$17,228.34

Vote on change to mission statement The mission of Friends of Grant Park is to preserve natural areas of the park, protect the water quality, enhance unique features of the park, and to provide a mechanism for private contributions to supplement public funding of Grant Park.

Annemarie A. motioned to accept the change of the Friends of Grant Park Mission Statement to add “protect the water quality”. Betsy A. seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Suburban Soles The schedule for speakers is still in the process of being formulated. When completed it will be posted on the FB site, web site (fogp.org), posted in the kiosks and in the SM list of events and sent out from the FOGP email.

Weedouts Sat mornings, starting April 26, May3, 10 and 17. Time is from 9 to noon but volunteers are encouraged to come for any amount of time during the sessions that fits with their schedule. Check the Friends of Grant Park website for last minute location changes before leaving home for the weedouts. The Park People have chosen Grant Park to be their “Kick Off” event location on April 26 at the tennis courts parking lot. Garlic Mustard and Dame’s Rocket are the invasive species that are the focus of the Spring weedouts.

Bird feeders End of May the feeder will move to Area 3/4. A sign will be put up that explains what type of seed to be used. Bird seed will be stored in the maintenance yard for volunteers to use. Volunteers can sign up, which will give access to storage. Busy times will require feeders be filled every other day.

A suggestion was made to put QR code on the new sign to donate. The director of Park People knows how to do this.

The parking lot where the bird feeder is now may be eliminated at some point in the future. That is one of the reasons the bird feeder will move to Area 3-4. FoGP will write a letter asking to keep this parking lot, which is needed for access to the Lake Michigan overlook for anyone who has mobility issues. It is also a popular parking lot for photographers, access to the Oak Leaf trail and the Forked Astor trail.

Fundraising The fundraising group will meet soon. Nothing to report yet. Constantly looking for ideas. Any donation to Friends of Grant Park earns a 2025 calendar.

7 Bridges Restoration Waiting to hear from Fund for Lake Michigan grant. Will be applying for more grants to have ravines and surrounding areas tested and surveyed with a design completed, which precedes any planting and installation. The completed job would cost over \$1 million, but the project can be done in pieces.

South Milwaukee Market, Mar 15 from 9-2 at South Milwaukee High School. Jody J, Deb W and Mary F are the volunteers.

Beach Cleanup, April 19, 9-noon.

Shakespeare in the Park The Optimist Theater Company did Shakespeare in the Park last year and will return this year for a performance on Sunday July 27. Friends of Grant Park will advertise the event, including flyers at the art fair, the week before.

Spring plant sale. May 29 or June 5. May 29 was preferred. Please bring any excess from your garden, as well as indoor plants to the plant sale at the South Milwaukee market. If you have small plastic pots to donate, those would be appreciated.

Friends of Monarch Trail Native plant sale at Greenfield Park Pavilion on May 10, 11:00-4:00 and May 11, 11:00-2:00.

Bluebird Trail Volunteers Those interested Contact Lynn C. Natural Resource Foundation has field trips; one is a bluebird trail.

Art Fair Only a few more slots remain open.

Fencing A fence will be added next to service yard Area 3, near the port-a-potty to discourage dog walkers from taking their dogs onto the golf course.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Crawford