

Friends of Grant Park Meeting Minutes - May 8, 2025

Present: Keith Sobczak, Jeff Ziebelman, Anne Schlimgen, Robert Kempke, Lynn Meidam, Dean Schuetz, Lyn Weber, Bill Sasse, Jody Johnson, David Allen, Carla Uphill, Pam Uhrig, Deb Pizur

Security – SM officer reports things have been quiet. Grant has been visited by Sheriff's Deputies more often. This is due to vehicle gas tank at airport is contaminated, deputies are gassing up their vehicles at Grant service yard.

Suburban Soles – 9 walks have been planned. Info about each walk can be found on our website and Facebook page. New signs with a new logo have been ordered. People discussed how the program appears on our website and concluded some adjustments need to be made. We need a new volunteer to take over coordinating the walks for 2026. Deb P. will be happy to help anyone interested in taking over. There are great spreadsheets with contacts that Brian has prepared and can be used to set up walks.

Spring Plant Sale May 29th, SM Market 3-7pm – Plants can be dropped off at the market or Deb P.'s or Pam's. Carla volunteered to work the table, but it would be nice to have one more person. Contact Deb or Pam if you wish to volunteer.

Art Fair, July 20 – one 14x7' spot and one 7x6' spot available, also looking for another snack vendor to replace the kettle corn truck. If you know of any artists, please ask them to contact FOGP or Deb. P. Please save the date and work a couple hours at the fair. People are needed throughout the art fair from 8am-4pm.

Bird Feeder – Planning has started to potentially move the birdfeeder to the parking lot by the service yard. Some Facebook comments were negative regarding the move.

Weedouts – Saturdays weedout was fantastic. SMHS track team students and others added up to 40 weeders plus 6 UWM students for a great day of weeding Dames Rock an garlic mustard. May 10th Weedout will meet at parking lot Area 3 –4 and May 17th OCHS students will participate.

7 Bridges Restoration Plan – We have the potential for a grant opportunity with the Fund for Lake Michigan. The plan can be found in the SM Library lobby display case until the end of May. Jody will check with City Hall and see if we can display the restoration info in City Hall and in the Grant Clubhouse. Suggestion was made to make QR code that directs a person to the plan. Suggestion of looking into grants from MMSD. MMSD is helping with the South Shore beach project.

Had a short discussion of taking on the task of putting steps to the beach on the north side of Grant. There were steps in that location in the past. Deb P. shared her thoughts, that it is a good start for the 7 Bridges plan because it would take the pressure off the ravine area and be a way to get to the beach when restoration work is taking place.

Other – Parks put up new bike etiquette signs on the Oak Leaf trail. Two signs for Ordinance 47.08 listing rules for natural areas will be placed at the 7 bridges entrance and Area 5, and a sign that says “No Foraging” will go in the kiosk.

Main Bridge had warped boards and after carpenters repaired it they found more deterioration. Parks is looking into possibly replacing the bridge and removing the steps. That would mean having the bridge would go straight across potentially making the woodland area handicap accessible.

A possible Boy Scout project might be done on the area around 7 Bridges Kiosk, with new split rail fencing and landscaping.

Open Doors SM will be Sept 13 from 10am to 3pm, contact fogp.org if interested in working our table at Wulff Lodge.

Calendar theme this year will be history. Jody and Deb P. went to Parks corporate offices and looked at photos of Grant. We also contact the Milw. Public Library, they have some photos of the park online. Jody and Deb are going to the main library to see if they have any other photos.

Monarch group is selling plants at Greenfield Park May 10 and 11.

Suggestion was made to adopt an idea that the IL State Parks has adopted to keep parks clean. If you volunteer to pick up trash, you are given a plastic bag to use as you walk through the park. When you are ready to leave you turn in the trash and are given a string backpack with the park logo. Discussion ensued on various ways and opportunities to use this idea, such as on Memorial Day (if the weather is nice) and 4th of July.

Beer Garden – FOGP Meet and Greet July 1, starting at 5pm. Please bring a snack to share.

Optimus Theater returns to Grant Park with Shakespear plays July 27. FOGP will help promote the event.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Pizur