

Friends of Grant Park Meeting Minutes August 14, 2025, Area 5A

Present: Patrick Chaves, Shannon Wiarecki, Robert Kempke, Judy Kempke, David Allen, Lynn Crawford, Mary Fortier, Deb Pizur, Julie Johnson, Zac Johnson, Rhiannen Johnson, Susan Gresser, Chris Marifke, Kurt Olson, Margaret Olson, Pam Uhrig

Security – Officer not in attendance, no reports from other members

Treasurer's Report – Lynn C. went over the report. Please see attached

Guest Speaker Patrick Chaves – Engagement Coordinator for Milwaukee County Parks, Patrick oversees 60 parks on the south side. Purpose of his position is to get info to the public and friends' groups and to get feedback from the public. There are 154 parks and only 50 friends' group. This position helps coordinate with the parks grant writer and park cleanups and relays groups concerns to admin. Each park has an equity rating. This rating prioritizes parks according to their available resources. It indicates the need to involve neighbors near highly rated parks to participate in cleanups and help improve the park. Presently Lake Park has a rating of 1 and has the most resources. Grant Park has a rating of 4. To get needed services in the park, groups can publicize their activities more and request work orders with the appropriate team, such as trails, natural areas, etc. Concerns were voiced about one of the bridges with an extremely large step down from the bridge to the trail.

Art Fair Review – Approximately the same amount was brought in this year as last year. The participation fee for artists will be raised from \$35 to \$40 next year. Artists were given the opportunity to make suggestions and give feedback. We received positive comments, and many are looking forward to next year.

The Coordinator of the Art Fair is looking for someone to help with initially contacting Artists and doing some follow-up. Contact Debby Pizur .To increase PR a new member has taken on the task of starting an Instagram page. More art fair yard signs will be purchased for next year, and flyers posted at gyms, coffee shops, etc.

A suggestion was made to have an event like "Pulling o the Green" to increase revenue.

Community Night Out Review – Many participants took info. and knew about the Trek 'n Treat event. It has become a popular fall event.

Suburban Soles – Last session is Sunday, August 24, 10am at Area 5; topic is invasive species. Our member and leader of the project, Rick Kaiser, will show the reforestation work that has been done.

A new coordinator is needed to organize the Suburban Soles events for next year. The current coordinator will help and provide resources to make the task go smoothly. If you are interested, please contact Debby Pizur.

Other

Members welcomed Kurt and Margaret Olson. Margaret is the youngest niece of Frederick Wulff's wife. It was a pleasure to meet relatives of the Wulff Lodge founder.

Bird feeders will be moved to an area near the service garage to have better access to supplies.

The theme for the 2026 calendar will be historical photos of the park.

Master gardeners, Chris and Sue explained the gardens at Wil-o-Way and welcome volunteers to help care for the gardens.

Upcoming Events

Trek 'n Treat, Oct. 5, 1-4pm, Area 5A and 7 ridges Ravine. Many volunteers needed. Reply to this email to learn more.

SM Doors Open, September 13, Wulff Lodge –10am to 2pm

SM Fall Fest at the Market, September 25 – FOGP booth will have treats for kids handed out 3pm to 7pm. Volunteers needed.

Weedouts for fall will be on every Saturday morning in October.

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Respectfully submitted by D. Pizur