

Friends of Grant Park Meeting Minutes - November 13, 2025

Present: Annemarie Adsen, Carla Uphill, Debby Pizur, Mary Fortier, Deb Sindric, Diane Hoffman, Robert Kempke, Rhia Johnson, Zac Johnson, Julie Johnson, Betsy Abert, Lynn Meidam, Anne Schlimgen, Jeff Ziebelman, Chris Marifke, Susan Gresser, Jocelyn Kroetz-Jones, Jody Johnson, Pam Uhrig

Security - Officer Reynolds reported when in the park the primary law enforcement is Milw. County Sheriff's Dept. Only a handful of minor calls during the month of October. SMPD has 3 drones. Private drones must contact the FAA to register flight requests when in SM.

Treasurer's Report - Please see attached

Weedout Report - Held 23 weedouts from April thru Nov., 450 volunteers, 1,455 hours. Planted 65 trees (Red Oak, Basswood, Hackberry, Black Cherry, Hazelnut), 38 have been fenced. \$1,700 donation from the Rotary Club of Mitchell Field was used to purchase trees and the group helped plant the trees. Thanks to the Rotary Club and Rick Kaiser for all his work.

Discussion of ravine restoration options - Parks was contacted and asked to suggest where we should start our next project; the stone steps closest to the lake on the south facing slope, or move the steps directly across from the bridge. Another idea is to do a new set of wooden steps on the north end of the park going down to the beach, however that project is on hold due to the possibility of Parks creating access for emergency vehicles to enter the beach. Benefits to this access is to lessen the traffic in 7 Bridges. Wulff lodge steps to the ravine also needs repairs. Waiting on Parks for their consensus. A drone survey has been done of 7 Bridges by Parks.

Parks presently stabilizing 2 bridges damaged in the flood and relaying lannon stone on the trail. A work order has been put in to fix railings.

Holiday Event-Dec. 11 - Meeting to start at 6 and the party starts at 6:30. Members present signed up to bring refreshments. Open to the community.

Calendars for sale - members encouraged to purchase or sell at least 2 calendars. Cost is \$15 each, members may purchase 1 calendar for \$13.50. Calendars are for sale at Mari's, Skyline Deli, Parkway Floral, Bakehouse 23, at FOGP meetings and the SM market on Dec. 13. Checks sent to 421 Hawthorne Ave., SM 53172 for mail orders.

Thank you to our local businesses for their help, Sue Hebner for the design and MJ media for printing the calendars.

SM Market-Dec. 13, 9am-2pm at the high school. FoGP will have a booth to sell calendars, t-shirts, cards and bird houses.

Cousins donation night, \$172.27 - Thank you Cousins in South Milwaukee!

Elections - Need to be a member in good standing to vote. Ballots were passed out. Our by-laws allow for additional members at large. All former board members were reelected. We are still looking for additional board members.

Other - Cliff swallow movie to be shown at one of our meetings. Possibly an invite to view the movie will be sent to other Friends groups in our area.

Trail ambassador training - two volunteers went to training at Wehr Nature Center. When rules are being broken by visitors in the park, Ambassadors learn how to address them and relay the rules in a positive way so as not to be confrontational. Parks will do training again for us if we wish.

Carved heads-Two wooden heads were carved and installed by Bryan Lorentzen at the pavilion in Area 5. They were copied from two heads that were removed due to decay. We are very grateful for his exceptional talent and perseverance

Please provide any volunteer hours, asap!!!! Send to Pam or Rick.

Upcoming Events

Trail Network Plan by Parks, Nov. 19, Sports Complex, Franklin, 5-7pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Debby Pizur