

Friends of Grant Park Monthly Meeting
April 9, 2026, clubhouse, 6:30pm

Attendance: Julia Dekker, Robert Kempke, Judith Kempke, Lyn Weber, Lynn Meidam, Jo Rakos, Mary Fortier, Dean Schuetz, Jackie Benka, Jody Johnson, Barb Johnson, Carla Uphill, Chris Marifke, Susan Gresser, Deb Pizur, Rick Kaiser, Lynn Crawford, Jean Trimble, Patrick Hintz, Pam Uhrig

Security: Officer Reynolds told us the South Milwaukee Police Department has not had any major incidents in Grant Park. Fires on the beach, which have been a long-standing problem, have been brought to our attention. The county ordinance banning fires on the beach will be posted on our Facebook page.

Treasurer Report	Cash Boxes, approximate	\$534.00
	Petty Cash held by Lynn Crawford	\$786.34
	Park People, estimated Feb 1	\$28,300.00
	TOTAL ASSETS	\$29,620.34

Beach Cleanup April 18, 9-noon at Grant Park Beach: Looking for volunteers to join Jody at the table to register participants and hand out the supplies. Please contact Jody. Rain date is April 19.

South Milwaukee Blog: Tory Elliot of South Milwaukee Blog has asked for contributions from Friends of Grant Park. The April 18 beach cleanup is now in the blog.

Volunteer opportunities: The volunteer sheet was circulated at this meeting and will be circulated at future meetings. Thank you to Jody for creating this list of volunteer opportunities.

Weedout: Apr 25, May 2, May 9, May 16 from 9 am until noon: Rick has started to scope out areas of the park to weed invasive plants. Volunteer groups have signed up. Come join us for any amount of time on weedout dates. Note that ticks are present in wooded areas.

Tree planting: Deb P wrote the tree planting grant that was fulfilled by the Mitchell Field Rotary Club for \$1700. The grant was turned over to Milwaukee County Parks because they are able to purchase and plant larger trees. The trees should be planted in Grant Park on April 9, 2026.

Thank you to Rick for overseeing this grant and for all you do with the Friends of Grant Park weedout program. In appreciation, a lifetime membership was awarded to Rick.

Suburban Soles: The first Suburban Soles event is birding on May 3. The final list will be posted on the fogp.org website. Possible “walk with a photographer” on May 31.

Art Fair: July 19, 10 am until 3 pm, Area 5A: Many volunteers are needed throughout the day.

Fundraising: Members of the Fundraising Committee include Julia Dekker, Julie Johnson, Rhia Johnson, Zach Johnson, Lynn Meidam, Deb Pizur, and Pam Uhrig. A fundraiser is being planned around Earth Day, on a Thurs night in April 2027 at Moran's Pub. If you know of any businesses that would like to donate a basket, please let the committee know.

Stickers are very popular with young people; therefore, we are in the process of ordering 4 designs: Seven Bridges, Boot with nature decorations, Bridge with the lake behind it, Grant Park map. A suggestion was made that the same materials could be used to make anti- bird strike window stickers. But in the past, we have had anti-bird strike stickers to sell and even give away, but they have not been popular.

More notecards with photos of Grant Park will be printed and ready in time for the art fair.

Plant Sale is May 28, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the South Milwaukee Downtown Farmers Market. Donations of house and garden plants are appreciated. No invasive species, please

Project updates: The new Grant Park steps we had been considering, as part of the Seven Bridges ravine project, are too complex for lay people--which we are--to undertake. We also looked at renovating the trailhead at the entrance to Seven Bridges, especially after the kiosk was blown down.

The study that Friends of Grant Park authorized and paid Indigo Ecological Design to complete should be acted on while it is still current. Priorities are the eroding ravines and the Lannon stone paths that are eroded to the point of becoming dangerous.

Other

Shakespeare in the Park, July 26, 1 pm-6 pm. Free

South Milwaukee-St. Francis Community Wellness Event, May 13, 4:30 pm - 6 pm; then bingo 6:30 pm - 8 pm at Bucyrus Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Crawford