Friends of Grant Park, South Milwaukee
Meeting Minutes - October 8, 2026, clubhouse at 6:30pm

Present: Robert Kempke, Diane Hoffman, Deb Pizur, Mary Fortier, Lynn Meidam, Lynn Crawford, Dean Schuetz, John Lange, Nancy Lange, Courtney Adkins, Betsy Abert, Jody Johnson, Pam Uhrig.

Agenda

Security - Jody reported in Sept. she heard a cry for help and she called 911. Police sent an officer. The next morning she heard that the police found her in a restroom and she was ok.

Treasurer's Report - Please see attached
!!!!! If you want to change the budget for 2027 for the activity you are leading, please provide the budget estimates by our Nov. meeting or the budget amount will remain the same as 2026.
The South Milwaukee Industrial Museum LLC Museum board of directors granted our group a $2,000 donation to be used on a new kiosk at the 7 Bridges entrance. We will work with parks to design a new kiosk.
We requested to meet with Parks to coordinate our efforts with theirs on the planning of the Seven Bridges entrance.

Trek 'n Treat, Sunday, Oct. 11, 1-4pm - Area 5A and 7 Bridges trails
Tenth annual event. High school students from Oak Creek and So. Milwaukee are lined up to volunteer. The plan for the route will be to go down the steps nearest the beach and up the stairs by the main bridge. It would be appreciated if a volunteer could sweep off the steps to help create a safer walking path. We will have Venmo available if people don't have cash.

Strong Towns group introduction - Courtney Adkins is the Strong Town leader. She moved into SM 4 years ago. The group has been working on infrastructure and traffic safety. Actions they have done include garbage pickup, benches at bus stops, painted murals in Grobschmidt Park and more. The group meets the first Thursday at 6:30pm at Virtue and Valor. Looking to form an official nonprofit. Looking to put good intentions into our community.

2027 Calendars available - Available at local businesses, Mari's, Parkway Floral, Skyline Catering, Bakehouse 23. Cost $15. Or send a check and your address to 421 Hawthorne Ave with additional $3 for postage.

Fall Weedout update: Oct. 10,17, 24 - Rick and his crew were taking down buckthorn last week. The team used the branches to build fencing. Oct. 10th the volunteers will be planting trees and will be meeting up at the tennis courts at 9am. Dogwood, Sugar Maple, Oak, and other native trees that will grow in the understory will be planted

FOGP Fundraising Night Out: Soup & Sip - Moran's Pub, 6pm-9pm, April 22, 2027
Goal is to raise funds for work on redesigning the main entrance of the 7 Bridges or on the ravine restoration.

Holiday Tea, Dec. 5 - Planning meeting will be October 20th - We are partnering with Historical Society and Friends of the Mill Pond. Board will report dates of when volunteers are needed to decorate the clubhouse and work at the tea.

Holiday gathering - at Dec. 10th meeting. Will report time and activities.

Winter market- Dec. 12, 9am to 2pm at SMHS. If you are able to help for a shift email friendsofgrantpark@gmail.com

FOGP fundraisers – Sunday, Nov. 1, 4pm to 7pm, South Milwaukee Cousins will donate 20% of sales. Please eat up.

Other - Betsy purchased a wrap to protect the trees from bucks rubbing on the trunks with their antlers.
Rotary Club food truck event on Sunday, Oct. 4. There seemed to be fewer people than last year.
Jody is considering doing an impromptu beach cleanup. Watch your email for info.
We may contact Parks about moving the unused bike rack from Grobschmidt Park to the 7 Bridges entrance.
There will **not** be elections for 2027 officers at the November meeting, since board members are elected for 2 year terms. The next election will be held in Nov. 2027 for board positions in 2028.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Pizur