

Minutes for FoGP meeting on 14 May 2009

Thursday, 7:00 PM,
Grant Park golf course clubhouse.

Attendees:

Don Lawson, Lynn Crawford, Jody Johnson, Judy Maas, Craig Maas, Bob Porth, Mary Kanitz
Minutes typed by Don Lawson

Summary:

FoGP has made a commitment to donate as much as \$2000 (ballpark) to Milwaukee County Parks this year. This represents approximately 1 year's income for our organization, and fits our mission as a non-profit that supports projects in the Park.

Donations are expected to cover some herbicide supplies (\$450) and one or two wheelchair access ramps for a restrooms at Picnic Pavilion 5 (\$1500).

Agenda items and resulting discussion:

As preparation for discussion on donations, note that the FoGP account balance is above \$6000. With the annual 8% charge by Park People to act as the fiscal agent of FoGP, this balance would be reduced to half of its present value if we don't do anything with the money we have accrued.

As part of discussing our account balance, we acknowledged the generous donations that Bucyrus International has been making to FoGP.

1) Discuss donating money to Natural Areas Management (via The Park People) so that Brian Russart's crew has herbicide supplies for working on invasives in Grant Park.

After discussion, it was agreed that FoGP will continue to support the "matching grant" challenge that has been offered to the other Friends groups. And, FoGP will purchase a jug of Roundup and a jug of Garlon, for an estimated total of \$450. Consensus was that the exact dollar amount of the donation is less important than the fact that an adequate quantity of supplies be purchased.

2) Discuss funding additional projects for the summer (rain gardens, etc.).

We discussed the options of installing additional rain gardens in the park. Bob Porth said that this was an issue to work out with Brian Russart and Betsy Abert.

We discussed possible donations to enhance the "dog waste bag" distribution system. Don mentioned concerns of working with the bags that had been obtained from Delphi by Kathy Slamka. (Bags are very stiff and somewhat hard to tie, and are not biodegradable if kids scatter them through the woods.) However, Bob Porth assured us that the existing system, using mail boxes and the Delphi bags, seemed to be working okay. Don proposed that, if it would help, FoGP could have some signs made, based on samples photographed elsewhere, to make the boxes more prominent. This is something that can be left for follow-up later this year.

We discussed adding some "wheel chair access" ramps to the restrooms of the Picnic Area 5 pavillion. Bob Porth said that the north side of the pavillion (at the entrance to the women's rest room) was going to have extensive rework as part of repairing the electrical supply to the pavillion. Don suggested that we contact Parks to have supplemental work done for the men's room on the south side of the building. Bob Porth suggested that FoGP contact Jim Kegan (who is

involved with infrastructure expenditures for Parks), and Don said he would do the follow-up contact. We decided that we could afford to spend as much as \$1500 to support this second wheelchair ramp, and our impression was that this was probably a generous quantity relative to what will be required to make this a supplemental donation to an existing project.

3) Discuss the "Publicity Folder" info for Park People "Sunday Funday" event. What is missing? Should we have membership forms? A sign-in sheet for further contact? Does the presentation overlook any of our programs?

To aid in recruiting people to support our various Grant Park groups, we have a "story book" (for a 3-ring binder) of captions and photos, describing Friends of Grant Park and related groups and programs. Besides FoGP and the fundraising parties, the book includes the Weed-Out volunteer-based program to control invasives, our funding of Parks' herbicide-based invasive controls, and the Grant Park Park Watch program. Photos were reviewed, and generally received favorable comment from meeting attendees. The "FoGP" table will be staffed from 1 to 4 pm, by Mary (1-2), Betsy (2-3), and Lynn (3-4).

It was suggested that the "story book" include mention (a) our efforts to install security cameras at various pavilions in the park, and (b) our goal of improving Wulff Lodge.

4) Do we want to try to set up a FoGP picnic this summer? If so, we need to set a date, discuss procedure, etc., if we do. I'm imagining an event in late July, where food is purchased via tickets that are sold ahead of time, door to door, etc. Of course, other local "park volunteer" groups would also receive invitations (Park Watch, our Weed-Out volunteers, FoMP, etc.)

A tentative date of Wednesday July 29 was selected. We specifically selected a weekday evening to avoid possible interference with Parks being able to rent Pavilion 7. (Rentals are quite active on weekends, but almost never occur on weekday evenings.) We will ask participants to bring a salad to pass. A couple of us (Don, Lynn) agreed that we would be available on the afternoon of the day to do set-up, etc. The event will occur "rain or shine," so that we are not tying up a Parks facility with multiple "fee waiver" days for one event.

Craig will check with local activities scheduled in South Milwaukee to be sure that we won't be in conflict with any other scheduled events. Perhaps this event can be publicized as part of the Heritage Days events.

It was agreed that the event would be by advance ticket sales only, and that adults would be \$5, kids would be free.

Don will make inquiries to see if the band is available for the event. (Understanding is that the musicians will play for free, if they perform.)

5) T-shirt purchases for the "100 year anniversary" shirts being offered by Parks.

A total of 10 T-shirts were ordered by members of FoGP. The order was turned in by Don before the "Friday Noon" deadline.

6) Any other ideas that people can bring for discussion?

Don's notes do not show any other topics.