

# Meeting for Friends of Grant Park meeting, Nov. 12th, 2009

## Location:

Grant Park Golf Course Clubhouse, 7:00 PM

(The meeting actually occurred in the golf course parking lot, due to a minor snafu.)

## In attendance:

Michael Timm, Mary Kanitz, Betsy Abert, Jody Johnson, Rob Vajagich, Don Lawson

## Agenda Items

- 1) Confirm a date for 2010 "Pullin O the Green" as Sunday March 14th.  
Don has made reservations for the building, and has applied for "Fee Waiver" status

The Garlic Mustard Pickers will perform. No additional entertainment was suggested at the meeting.

Do we want to convert the event into a "two seatings" affair, with a "5PM" and a "7PM" seating? General consensus was "yes, if we can get enough volunteers to properly handle two shifts."

Advantages (in comparison to previous years' events):

This would avoid problems of people being stuck in line for an hour while waiting for a table to open up

It gives the band a break, etc

This would also be a motivation for people to buy advance tickets.

The big question was: How do we most effectively recruit enough volunteers to make the event really "tick?" We can discuss at a future meeting

- 2) FoGP can contribute new carpeting to the Golf Course Clubhouse. We would like to propose splitting the estimated cost (\$4000) with Friends of the Mill Pond.
- 3) We set aside discussion on the following:

We need to improve the organization of Friends of Grant Park. In particular, we have a real need for people to handle the following functions:

Public Relations chair

Membership chair

Other positions/functions that people can suggest?

- 4) Community Forum - We agreed that we will want to "give it a pass" this year.

However, we should sponsor an informative talk, to which neighborhood residents would be invited, talking about establishing proper funding for Parks.

- 5) Owl Prowl on December 10th. Meet at the "clubhuse" at 6:00 pm.

- 6) Reviewed development of a "nature trail" (using Bucyrus' donation):  
Details on signage still need working out.

Mike Timm suggested we contact people at Konkle Park, who also did a signed nature trail a few years ago.

- 7) Preliminary agreement was reached on purchasing a "FoGP buckthorn toolkit" to develop a more extensive "buckthorn" schedule in our park. Estimated cost was around \$150 for several sets of large anvil loppers, small "pruning" anvil loppers, and herbicide.

*Not discussed were any of the following questions -*

*Can we get enough interest among local residents for participation if we offer a broader range of days for the sessions, instead of only 1 or 2 days each fall?*

*Who would be the custodian of the tools during most of the year?)*

- 8) Mike Timm brought up three issues for FoGP to consider.

One was to see if we could tie some FoGP interest north into Warnimont Park.

Another was to see if we can get more volunteer activity (to help with FoGP efforts) from local Boy Scout troops.

And finally, would FoGP be interested in taking on "regularly sampling water for assessing quality" at Grant Park Beach, for participation in a regional long-term "water quality monitoring" survey.

- 9) Don asked if anybody would be interested in helping with one more buckthorn Weed-Out, on Nov 21st, in the Oak Creek Parkway, if FoMP was interested in also helping in clearing out the buckthorn. Consensus was that Don should contact FoMP.

Next meeting:

Thurs. Dec 10th, 6:00 PM. *Note the change in time.*

In lieu of a normal meeting, we will have an Owl Prowl in the park.

Bring a snack to pass, and invite a neighbor to come along! Kids are welcome, provided they are warmly dressed and can be quiet.