

# Meeting for Friends of Grant Park meeting, Jan 14th, 2010

Location:

Grant Park Golf Course Clubhouse, 7:00 PM

In attendance:

Kim Hall, Marion Munagian, Betsy Abert, Bob Porth, Lynn Crawford, Mary Kanitz, Armen Hadjinian, Rob Vajagich, Jody Johnson, Tara Withington, and Tara's husband Jim

**Please refer to the last page of this report for a list of upcoming meetings that you might want to participate in.**

## Agenda Items

### 1) Carpet project

Armen Hadjinian (of The Armen Group) talked about some of our options for doing the carpeting. Budgetary pricing would be somewhere between \$3200 and \$4100, not including removal of the existing carpet.

Removal of the carpet would run around \$400 if Armen did the work. However, we could save the money if we made it a FoGP "volunteer labor" day.

Total area involved is 185 yards. A good-quality highly-patterned carpet would run around \$22/yard. The proposed carpet would be 100% nylon, solution dyed, which would be something that could be expected to last 10 to 15 years, and which can survive lots of cleaning. Armen suggested we consider something dark with a lot of pattern.

The carpet currently in the Clubhouse is an old "spike-proof" carpet, and is 14 years old.

Underneath the carpet is some tile, which appears to be 1/8" (not 9/32"). Parks will do work to check if any asbestos is in the tile or in the adhesive.

Bob Porth reports that other local groups (besides FoGP) may participate in helping to fund this project, but the extent of the funding is somewhat unknown as of this time. The MCPLA golf group has already contributed \$1400 to fixing a problem with golf course irrigation, so they would probably only contribute a few hundred dollars. Nancy Wucher is looking into other possible local donors, including the historical society.

As of May 2009, FoGP had a little over \$6000 in our Park People account. Since then, we've added around \$1000 to support an anti-vandalism reward, we've received \$1000 from Bucyrus (for their 2009 donation), and we've withdrawn some money to pay for herbicide spraying of garlic mustard, but that leaves us with around \$3000 to \$4000 for the carpet project. (Individual donors might be able to help bridge the gap between FoGP funds and the project's cost.) Even if the carpet project is not attainable in 2010, we should be able to pay for it in 2011.

### 2) Nature Trail project

So far, we've received \$2000 in donations from Bucyrus International (in 2008 and 2009), and Betsy's plans are based on this \$2000 figure.

Betsy suggests we build a 6-sided kiosk, which can have sides dedicated to local schools, to FoMP, to Weed-Out, to FoGP, and, of course, to the nature trail. The kiosk will be across

the main road from the Picnic Area #1 parking lot. Nature trail items could include both local items of interest (surrounding the open space to the south of Pavilion #5), and also more isolated items of interest which would be located via an orienteering course.

The specific design of the kiosk would need to be approved by Parks, and then we'd need to work out the details of who provides the installation labor. (Parks could handle the work, but we could save a significant sum if our members put in some volunteer labor.)

Kim Hall pointed out that, by having an educational slant to appeal to local kids, our community could benefit from the kids having an enhanced appreciation of the park. In the short term, this might also help reduce vandalism.

Kim also pointed out that the Johnson Outdoor Corp. maintains a "Green Hour" Fund, which is intended to promote the use and appreciation of outdoor spaces. As part of getting money to enhance the nature trail, we might consider writing a grant proposal.

In a related topic, the South Milwaukee Historical Society is trying to put together documentation of the old bridle trails that were once used for horseback riding in the park. Mike Rapp (at Parks) is a landscape architect who may have access to some old maps that would show these trails.

### 3) Dog Waste management, and other signs

Betsy suggests Parks installs a couple more "dog waste bag" mail boxes near Picnic Area 8. Also, Betsy put forth a sign that urges dog owners to pick up after their pets.

Tara suggested the bottom of the sign be changed to point out that, if dog owners don't pick up after their pets, Parks may decide to prohibit dogs from being brought to the park.

It was suggested that there be signs along the bike trails, saying that "bikes and unleashed dogs don't mix" (perhaps with a picture showing a bike colliding with a dog).

### 4) Discussion of advocacy for proper funding of the parks:

Betsy mentioned that AB504 has left the joint finance committee (in Madison), and she is contacting both Rep. Honadel and State Sen. Plale to urge they support this legislation.

### 5) Pullin' O the Green - Advance planning

The idea of "two separate seatings" was discussed again, with suggested times of 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm. The concern was that we would be asking people to leave when they want to stay, but it was mentioned that they could hang out in the bar area.

The important issues are:

- a) We don't want to have upset people hanging around in the bar area waiting for a table;
- b) We want to encourage people to buy their tickets in advance which will help us plan;
- c) We need LOTS of volunteers to help make the event a success;
- d) We need plenty of publicity --> publicity meeting will be Jan 28th at Don Lawson's house

6) Calendar - preliminary list of items to include:

Pullin' O the Green

Birding

Owl Prowl

garlic mustard sessions in May (including a Sunday session or two)

buckthorn sessions in the fall

Recognition events for law enforcement (handled by Park Watch)

Summer picnic (and perhaps do recognition of So Milw police)

Music in the Parks

Beach cleanup

Halloween party

Other possible ideas:

"film party" night in the clubhouse? (View a movie, have pizza or other snacks?)

Next Meeting for Friends of Grant Park: Feb 11, 2010

**Upcoming meetings of other groups:**

Park Watch: Tuesday Jan 19, 7 PM, at Will-O-Way

Grant Park 100-Year Party - Planning meeting:

South Milwaukee Methodist Church, 1327 Marshall Ave

Tuesday, Jan. 26th

Meeting will be in the church's 1st floor in the lounge

.a "sloppy joe sandwich" and fixings will be served starting at 6:00pm

meeting runs from 6:30 to 8:30pm

RSVP to: Kathy Krause, (315-1277) / President, Grant Park Garden Club