

Meeting Agenda for Friends of Grant Park  
Thursday May 13th, 7:00  
Grant Park golf course Clubhouse

Karla Kreuger & Husband, Don Bulley, Rob V., Jody Johnson, Jackie Benka, Tara W., Betsy, Jan Shoemaker, one other person

Recollections:

Jan Shoemaker has memories of the bridal path in the park. Silver Star Riding Club was at Marina Cliffs area. The newcomer recalls jumping into water from swinging on a vine.

Brian Russart has told Betsy that he's looking at restoring all of the ponds - that they are currently all "dead" and needs rework. Swans chase away geese, would be good for holding down goose population. Previous swans were poisoned, then shot. The aggressive swans are exotic species (not native).

Formal Agenda Items:

1) Plans for participation in the "Grant Park Centennial" celebrations

Kiosk (6-sided)

Geo-caching (we will sponsor an event). Sunday July 18th, noon to 3 PM. Dedication of the park is 3:30 PM for the "Seven Bridges" blown-out bridge. The Catholic archbishop will be on hand to do a blessing of the bridge.

There are very strict rules about this (you use a handheld GPS to locate the caches). Cannot have caches located near natural areas - need to be near trails, trail heads.

Do we have items at each cache that gives them hints on where to go to the next cache?

Advantage of this is that we could bring people into areas where they could see the natural aspects of the park. Make big trees items in the goals.

Betsy cannot do the GeoCache event. Needs other people to handle this.

Jackie Benka suggests a "snake tree" as a goal.

Jan Schoemaker suggests concrete pylons with roots.

Can we run a food table etc. to collect money for security cameras?

What are prizes for the caching event? Who pays?

2) Jackie Benka does presentation on a Wellness Walk - starts at the downtown market. Do 1.5 miles to the millpond (short walk), or a longer walk (to golfcourse clubhouse) and back. At each station participants gets a "poker hand" which gets used to establish Thursday evening, 3-6pm June 17th. Storm date would be the next week (June 24t).

3) Discussing recognition of Bob Porth - could we plant a tree in his honor, with a small plaque.

Reminders:

Upcoming weedout sessions are on Saturday Mornings, May 15, 22 and 29, meeting at 9:00 AM. Also we will have a SUNDAY AFTERNOON session on May 23, 1:00 PM. All Weed-Out sessions meet at the parking lot for Picnic Area 1.

Spring Bird Walks continue on Sundays 8:30 AM, in picnic area 7 & 8 (at Wil-O-Way entrance). Sunday 16th, 23rd. Observe the annual migration of incredibly colorful species that overwinter in Central and South America as they push north to and through SE Wisconsin to nest: many warblers, eastern towhees, thrush, and shorebirds. Binoculars are encouraged. Walks are weather dependent as most species hunker down during the hard rainfalls of spring. Betsy will guide: 764-9244 if questions come up.