



## Meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup> 2021 with Lindsay Frost

The meeting was recorded by Mike .

This meeting is aimed at improving the information that the friends groups have so they can help inform the Community.

In 1980 there were 1,327 full time park staff employees, two years ago 487 and today 254.

In 6 years parks will be a non-mandated service.

Right now about \$1.50 a month goes to the park from taxes on a property value of \$162,000.00

Milwaukee Parks earn 60% of their own revenue and the National average is 25%.

The deferred maintenance costs are \$500 million behind.

People know that parks are in a rough spot but they need to know how bad it is.

The Park system needs a political change. Donations help, but only go so far.

Climate Change has put an extra strain on the budget. To name a few there are severe storms, eroding bluffs and disappearing beaches.

Parks are dealing with racism as a Public Health Crisis. The parks system is trying to level racial disparities.

The Covid 19 Pandemic created another issue to deal with.

Then there are service reductions, removal of assets and closures.

The Milwaukee Parks Foundation only receives about 2-4 million a year. The Wisconsin Policy Forum is exploring park system models that are working in other systems.

More Donations and Fundraisers are needed. Let your neighbors know of the parks deliema and be patient..

There is a Volunteer Handbook out. The Brew Hero program can be used for micro volunteering.

Mini trash clean ups can be put on Instagram to be eligible for prizes. Trying for 1,000 volunteers.

The We Care Crew can be used to get resources out.

You can check projects that are underway on the Capital Project Tracker under the Counties project up dates page.

The Oak Leaf Trail Explorer App. and the Milwaukee Parks Explorer App. are available.

Special Events have been canceled through June 1st, 2021. The bathroom situation is being analyzed.

There are no new park improvements this year that have not been started.

Please File an Issue Report Form when there is an issue or a complaint. This will cut done on overlapping services.

If weather holds out the county will be doing a site visit in the next 2-3 weeks in order to start the planting of the River Birch in Spring, about 12 trees. Then in the fall about 20-25 hardwoods.

Henry asked if the plantings would follow ANSI guidelines. Lindsay stated DNR is in align with the

ANSI standards.

Trees will be coming from the parks nursery and are spaded. The over all planting will be diversified. These plantings are being done under the Community Tree Program. If you wanted a Memorial or a specific location the Park People have a program for that, approx cost \$500.00.

The parks do have some trees on a grid map with certain information but not all of them.

Henry stated that a lot of under bush was removed from around the lagoon and a good job was done. He was wondering if someone could inform him what trees were left and why. Lindsay said that she would be sending updates to the Lagoon Committee regarding their meeting in a few days.