

**Friends of Rouge Park
Meeting Minutes
Sept. 21, 2011**

Attendance: Chester Marvin, Tom McNulty, Sally Petrella, Paul Stark, Patricia Butler, Dustin Campbell (aide to Alisha Bell), Lisa Goldsmith, Paula Trilety, Paul Schwab

Minutes from the meeting of 7/20/11 were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Total: \$3188.37

Membership Report: 46 individual and family memberships and 6 organizational memberships.

President's Report:

1. Comfort Stations still have not been torn down. Permitting process is holding up the demolition.
2. A water main break was repaired east of Outer Drive, north of Warren Ave.; DWSD fixed the main but left deep ruts in the grass. Sally contacted Craig Bristow to work on getting the area repaired.
3. In late August, 75 students from Ross Business School did a major clean up and painting project by the Brennan Pools. Sally gave a talk on the recent history of the park to the volunteers.
4. Detroit Parks Coalition is planning to set up quarterly meetings with the General Services Dept. and the Rec. Dept. to keep an ongoing working relationship. They are exploring becoming a Park Conservancy. They are looking at Pittsburgh's Park Conservancy as a model. But they want to maintain their function as a coalition of park groups and their involvement in park advocacy.
5. Greening of Detroit is doing a program with two elementary schools in Detroit. They want to bring students out four times a year to study the changes in the prairie over the seasons. Paula will ask a community relation officer to be present in case miscreants are romping around there.
6. There was an incident in the prairie with miscreants exposing themselves to women on the pathway. Patricia Butler responded with news about a plan in the works to develop a private security force for the Cody-Rouge area.

Old Business

1. Butterfly Walk-July 31. We had 25 people came even though it was 95 degrees. The highlight of the walk was seeing many hummingbird moths. We identified a total of 15 species. The Pathway Trailhead Sign was installed on July 30.
2. Board Meeting with Becket & Raeder- The board needs to go through the forms that Beckett & Raeder gave. We planned to meet at Starters, Thurs. 9/29 5-7pm.
3. Amphitheater. Nothing has started on the project and we are getting concerned. Sally spoke with Craig Bristow and Debra Howard from the city.
4. Prairie and Archery Sign. The prairie sign is completed and no news about the progress on the Archery sign.

New Business

Board elections are in October. Paula made an informal nomination to keep all the current board members in their positions.

Reports and Announcements

1. Wayne County Commission Report, Dustin Campbell (aide to Alisha Bell). \$31 million less in the Wayne County Budget this year than last year. Commission approved \$500,000 for Detroit Parks, but only mentioned Chandler Park and not Rouge Park. Some money might be used for Rouge Park.
2. DAM-is advocating exempting model airplanes from the new proposed regulations regarding drones. These new regulations could apply to model airplanes and complicate the hobby.
3. Buffalo Soldiers need oil furnace fixed before winter, or a gas line installed so they can switch to a gas furnace. Their 5 yr. contract with the city will end in 2012 and will need to be renewed; they are planning a Horse ride on Oct. 1 at Nankin Mills in Hines Park as a fundraiser to raise money for roof repairs.
4. Harvest Festival is Saturday, Sept. 24 at D-Town Farm.

-Motion to donate \$100 toward Buffalo Soldiers Hines Park Horse Ride. Passed unanimously.

-Meeting adjourned