

**Friends of Rouge Park
Meeting Minutes
Oct. 19, 2011**

Attendance: Chester Marvin, Tom McNulty, Sally Petrella, Paul Stark, Lisa Goldsmith, Karen Peltora, Detroit Rec, Dept.

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

Treasurer's Report: Total: \$3082.06

Membership Report: 46 individual and family memberships and 6 organizational memberships. We discussed and agreed to put out a quarterly newsletter (including membership renewal plea) emailed, and mailed to those without email addresses. Also, inventory membership list to discover those with and without current email addresses.

President's Report:

1. Greening of Detroit held the planned educational program with elementary students at the prairie without incident.
2. D-Town Farm is hoping to expand to eight acres and has completed a new large greenhouse.

Old Business

1. **Rouge Park Visioning Strategy.** We discussed tearing down comfort stations, building new comfort stations, picnic shelters, a nature center, several pocket neighborhood parks, and a winter sports area. We discussed establishing no mown zones and forestry and trail plans (walking, biking, nature, etc.) throughout the park.
2. **Amphitheater.** Sally heard from Nivek and Larry. Delays in the city permitting process are holding up the construction. Nivek is planning art workshops with local youth to work on the project. Another art project for Joy & Spinoza is also in the works, though we don't have details.
3. **Comfort Stations.** Alicia Minter said that delays in the city permitting process are still holding up the demolition of the two comfort stations.
4. **Mowing.** There has been very little mowing lately in the park. The grass is very high in front of the main sign on Warren and looks bad. Sally emailed Trina Tucker, and was told that they will get to the fall mowing soon. We need to help them set mowing priorities correctly.
5. **The prescribed burn of the prairie** will happen in the spring. No date is set yet, but it will probably be in March or April. The Alliance of Rouge Communities received the grants to do the burn.

New Business

Adopt-a-park program. Karen Peltora of the Rec. Dept. will check with Sue Norander for info on adopt-a-park program

Board elections. At last meeting, Paula made an informal nomination to keep all the current board members in their positions. Paul Shwab is not here, so we decided to table the election to next month.

Reports and Announcements

1. **Buffalo Soldiers:** 23 paid riders at their Hines Park horse ride on Oct. 1. They raised over \$600 for the barn.
2. **FOTR Canoe Trip** on Oct. 29 and **Beer tasting** on Nov. 6 at Liberty Street Brewing Company