

## **Friends of Rouge Park Meeting March 17, 2009**

**Attendance:** Jacqueline Hunt and K. Mensah (D-Town Farm), Paula Trilety, Janice Slomba-Koss, Harvey Santana, Paul Stark, Sally Petrella, Chester Marvin, Paul Schwab, Eric Tomlinson (Elite Archery), Maceo Brown, Thomas McNulty, Jack Smiley

**Minutes:** Accepted as read

**Treasurer's Report**-Chester Marvin. Total: \$2417.68. No change from last month.

**Membership Report**-Tom McNulty. 56 individual & family memberships and 12 organizational memberships. 68 total memberships

**Presidents Report**-Sally Petrella:

1. Reimbursement for Rouge Park Appreciation Day 2008 is moving forward. The city still owes us \$1123.59 from last June's event. We should receive the money soon.
2. Sally attended the Meyers Nursery Master Land Use Planning Committee meeting on March 3. They discussed uses of the nursery for education, the D-Town Farm and recreation. Sally advocated getting more trees from the nursery planted in the park. They also discussed growing native plants for the park and establishing an environmental education area in the wetland there. D-Town asked for a pesticide free buffer zone so they can become a certified organic farm. They also discussed the possibility of starting a Farmer's Market in the park.
3. The Student Conservation Association in conjunction with Greening of Detroit is looking for projects in the park. Sally and Eric Tomlinson met with Evan Major. They discussed planting shade trees in the archery range, nature trail building and maintenance in Scout Hollow, and designing and building barriers throughout the park to discourage dumping and ATV access to the wetlands and flood plain. They will work on the projects for a month, starting July 13.
4. The General Services Dept. is interested in "naturalizing" parts of the park to save the expense of mowing. We discussed several areas that we would like to see included in the plans to "naturalize" (reforest or restore to native prairie). The meeting will be held at the West District Office at Joy & Spinoza, Tuesday, March 24 at 4pm.

### **Old Business:**

The Rouge Tunnel Project has not been given permission to close Outer Dr. so it will stay open.

### **New Business:**

1. Rouge Park Appreciation Day Update-Sharon Mioduch, chair, not present. Tom McNulty applied to the Health Dept. for our food license. Charles Usher, President of Marine Pollution Control offered a vehicle for us to use to pickup and deliver tables. Detroit AeroModelers will provide volunteers to cook and serve food on the day. A motion was passed to have Paul Schwab bring a proposal for a 2' X 10' sign saying Friends of Rouge Park and [www.rougepark.org](http://www.rougepark.org). Paul Schwab will talk to Sharon to set next meeting for the Rouge Park Appreciation Day committee.

## 2. Discover Rouge Park Day-Eric Tomlinson, chair

The committee discussed developing a flyer. Activities planned so far include an archery tournament, horse rides at the Buffalo Soldiers stables, Detroit AeroModelers will do a flying demonstration. Paula suggested including contacting the Rouge Park Golf Course and encourage them to plan an event. We discussed encouraging some events to occur at the pool as well. Police Activities League need to be contacted and encouraged to have activities as well: Baseball games, tennis, etc. Publicity is the key; we need to REALLY promote this event.

5K Run Update: Paul Stark, chair. No one attended the last planning meeting. Janet, Paula, Maceo joined the committee and planned a planning meeting tentatively for Monday, March 23. Tom McNulty suggested allowing teams to compete in the run.

Next meeting: Tues. Apr. 21, 6pm