

## **Friends of Rouge Park Meeting June 16, 2009**

**Attendance:** Janice Slomba-Koss, Paul Stark, Sally Petrella, Chester Marvin (Friends of The Rouge), Paul Schwab, Eric Tomlinson (Elite Archery), Thomas McNulty (Detroit AeroModelers), Jacqueline Hunt (D-Town Farm), Paula Trilety (WODCA), Harvey Santana (WCO)

**Minutes:** Accepted as read

**Treasurer's Report**-Chester Marvin. Total: \$3108.60. We are getting some requests for membership renewals returned as undeliverable. We need to update our mailing list. One 5K sponsorship returned with bad address. Meijers sent us their own application for sponsorship in response to our request. \$264.69 check needs to be made to Tom M. for reimbursement for food from RPAD. We spent \$771.58 total on RPAD. Alisha Bell gave \$100 donation.

**Membership Report**-Tom McNulty. 57 individual & family memberships and 12 organizational memberships. 69 total memberships.

### **Presidents Report**-Sally Petrella:

1. Larry Halbert has been chosen to build a sculpture on the NE corner of Rouge Park Dr. & Spinoza. Work will begin this summer.
2. DWSD obtained an economic hardship exemption from the EPA on the Tunnel Project and is suppose to come up with an alternative plan. They did \$16 million in destruction to the park removing vast areas of top soil and 20 huge old irreplaceable oak trees. Sally received a letter from DWSD offering to meet with our group to discuss alternatives. We decided that the best time for us would be the week of July 6.
3. The Student Conservation organization will be working on mountain biking trails, nature trail maintenance and tree inventory and management in the Greening of Detroit nursery. They will involve 110 high school students and 22 adult staff in this project this summer.
4. 210 volunteers removed three cars, 86 bags of garbage, 43 bags of garlic mustard, a furnace, a newspaper box, etc. from the river and opened a log jam in the river. Garlic mustard is almost completely removed form the work areas and native plants are making a comeback including a rare green dragon at one site. Brad Dick from the General Services Dept. agreed to give the nursery a gate to keep dumpers out. Volunteers weeded and redesigned flower plantings at Joy & W. Parkway. MIEARTH.org has several videos of the event posted on their site.
5. The FORP Banner has been completed and was used on RPAD.
6. Sally wrote a letter to the city regarding the paintball damage, but has still not received a response yet.

RPAD suggestions for next year.

1. Need a better PA system!
2. Better sign directing people to archery.
3. Make it clear that registration is at 8:00am and work begins at 9:00am.

4. Change Joy & Spinoza sign to show only start times
5. Raffle at 11:30 to get people together and focused so we can recruit members and thank people.
6. Bring industrial trash bags for trash if city has no trash cans again.
7. Give wrist bands, or require to show t-shirts, to receive lunch.
8. No council members showed up, no news coverage. What can we do to get them to come? Maybe send out notices earlier and then send out repeat notices?

#### OLD BUSINESS

1. Discover Rouge Park Day. We discussed canceling it this year and getting an earlier start next year. Suggestions for doing it in the Spring, Summer or Fall of next year were tossed around.
2. Plans for the money from last year's 5K run were discussed. Sally got prices on a bench for Joy & W. Parkway. We need to get permission from the county, and we need to design a sign saying "donated by Friends of Rouge Park" and our web site. We'd like a garbage can too.
3. 5K Run. Committee has sent letters requesting sponsorship and is doing follow up calls. Three people have registered to run so far. Next planning committee mtg: 6/23.

Next meeting: Tues. July 22, 6pm