

Friends of Rouge Park Meeting - May 19, 2009

Attendance: Neil Murray, Sally Petrella, Chester Marvin, Paul Schwab, Paul Stark, Thomas McNulty, Paula Trilety, Jasper Lindsey, Tamara Dyson, Larry Halbert

Minutes: Accepted as read

Treasurer's Report-Chester Marvin. Total: \$5456.92.

Membership Report-Tom McNulty. 45 individual & family memberships and 7 organizational memberships. 52 total memberships.

President's Report-Sally Petrella

1. Incorporation of FORP: We currently have 501(c)(3) status as an unincorporated organization. When we formally incorporate, we will need to re-apply for 501(c)(3) status as an incorporated organization. In the meantime, we are unable to be the fiduciary for Eliza Howell Park.

2. Friends of Eliza Howell Park (FOEHP): FOEHP's lawyers have been collecting affidavits from residents bordering Eliza Howell Park for the case against Howell Park Properties. People have been coming out of the woodwork to support keeping Eliza Howell as a park. On Friday FOEHP will be doing a sunflower planting in the Park, Saturday they are doing a cleanup and many other events.

Old Business:

1. Meeting with the mayor: no update

2. Membership drive: A draft of the promotional flyer was presented to the group. A few changes and corrections were made. It was decided that it was worth paying \$70 more for a two-sided flyer. We need to find the correct date for the Archery tournament. We agreed to get 5500 copies (500 extras for us to pass out). We agreed to get flyer out as soon as possible.

New Business:

1. Huron-Clinton Metroparks interest in Rouge Park. A Free Press reporter contacted Sally to ask what we thought about Huron-Clinton Metroparks taking over Rouge Park. Sally expressed that we are interested in any resources that can help the park, but we are not advocating for any change in ownership. Neil Murray spoke to the group about the prospect of the Metroparks operating Rouge Park. He expressed that the Metroparks is dedicated to operating a park in Detroit because Detroiters pay taxes to the Metroparks, but haven't parks in the city. He wrote a letter to all of the park commissioners and received a favorable response toward the idea from one of the them. A discussion followed over whether we would support this idea or not. There are many logistical questions that would need to be answered before we could formally support a change such as; would there be an admission fee? Would Detroit sell or lease the park? What specific plans would they have for the park?

2. Rouge Park Appreciation Weekend:

Friday Sculpture Dedication: We will have a table and banner at the dedication ceremony at 4 pm.

Saturday's volunteer projects will start at 9:00 am instead of 8:00 am to accommodate stragglers. Channel One Productions gave a quote of \$617 for one tent, 100 chairs and 21 tables. Two Porta-Potties and a washstand for \$335 have been ordered from Scotties Potties. Jasper was unable to get a grill donated by the Boy Scouts. Paul Schwab offered to rent two grills for about \$30 (he will confirm the price). Tom will get the charcoal. Jasper, Sally, and Tom will bring coolers. Sally will ask Zach to bring chips and Tom will bring cookies, relish and onions, catsup and mustard.

Volunteer Projects:

1. Joy/ W.Parkway and Warren/Outer Dr. plantings. 2. Three garlic mustard pulling groups. 3. Clearing out the dangerous blind corner at the intersection of the Warren sidewalk and the bike path. 4. Boy Scout project in Scout Hollow. 5. D town Farm 6. Greening of Detroit (nursery) 7. Buffalo Soldiers barn

Lunch will be at noon instead of 11:00 am. Jasper will check to see if the color guard is available to do a flag ceremony. Sally will bring the bullhorn. On Sunday the Detroit AeroModelers will put on a plane show and the Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Center will host pony rides. Other events have not been confirmed.

Next meeting: Tues. June 16, 6pm