

## **Friends of Rouge Park Meeting Minutes**

### **Jan. 20, 2010**

**Attendance:** Chester Marvin, Sally Petrella, Paul Stark, Tom McNulty, Paul Schwab, Janice Slomba-Koss, Larry Halbert, Terrell J. Mathis

**Minutes:** Accepted as read

**Treasurer's Report,** Chester Marvin: Total \$5398.93

**Membership Report,** Tom McNulty: 41 individual and family memberships, 6 organizational memberships. 15 renewal requests sent out on post cards.

### **President's Report, Sally Petrella**

**1. Tunnel Project Update:** In place of 30 ft. tunnel, DDS D will build smaller 19 ft. tunnel with many additional green infrastructure projects. They will host a meeting on the details of the project on Feb 10 at 7pm at U-M Dearborn's Environmental Interpretive Center. Paul will post on our web site and email it to our mailing list.

**2. Friends of Eliza Howell Park.** A new organization, FOEHP, has incorporated. They have had two meetings so far. Sally Petrella is one of the incorporators. First thing they will do is file an intervention on behalf of the citizens of Detroit to preserve Eliza Howell as a park. The next step is to find a pro bono lawyer to help file the intervention. They are looking for people to file depositions demonstrating that Eliza Howell IS a park. The city of Detroit actually came to us, FORP, and asked for our help in this fight. We offered FORP to be a fiduciary to collect tax deductible donations for FOEHP since they don't have their 501(c)3 yet.

**3. FORP Incorporation.** Helping FOEHP to incorporate reminded us that we, FORP, never officially incorporated. We need to file papers to incorporate the Friends of Rouge Park.

**4. Al Fields** has recently been hired into the Mayor's office. He has a reputation as being pro-parks.

**5. Capacity Building Grant:** We will know by early February if we will receive the \$1000 grant to help us to form a strategic plan for FORP. To receive the grant, we need to have an event in the park on Sept. 25. We discussed possibly planning a bike ride.

**6. Great Lake Initiative Grant** is being re-submitted.

**7. Meeting with mayor and new council people:** Lisa Goldsmith agreed to draft a letter to Mayor Bing asking for a face-to-face meeting with us. She was not present today, so we do not know the status of the letter.

**8. Martian Marathon:** The route for the Martian Marathon was originally planned to run through Rouge Park next April. The route has been changed and will not run through the park.

### **New Business**

**1. RPAD:** The official Dedication Ceremony for the Growing Together sculpture will occur around 4pm on June 4, the day before RPAD. We want to tie these events together. Larry Halbert spoke of pulling critical people from the city, Community+Public Arts, and elsewhere, together to coordinate the events. He would like to see more sculptures in the park. He stated that funding for a new sculpture could be combined with the restoration of a public restroom facility. Paul Schwab suggested making RPAD Rouge Park Appreciation Weekend with the sculpture dedication Friday, volunteer work on Saturday, and free-style fun things on Sunday. Everyone liked this idea.

**2. Facebook:** A 48227/48228 Facebook site has been formed and has 2000 "friends". Many friends have added positive memories about Rouge Park. Suggestions were made to create a FORP Facebook page. Paul agreed to look into creating a page for us.

**3. Membership Recruitment:** Janice asked what we are doing to increase membership. She suggested doing a direct mailing. Paula suggested an annual newsletter to our members sent every Spring announcing all the upcoming events and successes of the last year. Paul suggested doing the newsletter as a mass mailing with advertisers helping to cover the cost as a membership recruitment tool. He also suggested hosting an annual membership meeting in the Spring. The need to get more business members to join was discussed as well. Terrell, Tom and Janice will develop a proposal for a mass mailing to recruit new members.

**4. Adopt-a-part-of-the-park:** Terrell and Tom suggested working to get other groups to adopt parts of the park (i.e. SEMBA butterfly garden, Church flower gardens, Detroit Audubon Society bird habitat).

**5. Mr. Liggins:** Paula Trilety suggested inviting Mr. Liggins, James Tate's new aide, to our next meeting as a liaison between FORP and Tate's office.

**6. 5K Run:** Paul will make a calendar of all other local 5K Runs next fall and choose best possible days for our run

Next Meeting: Wed.  
Feb. 24