

Friends of Rouge Park

Minutes: Mar. 24, 2010

Attendance:

Marth Gruelle, Sally Petrella, Paul Stark, Larry Quarles, Paul Schwab, Janice Slomba-Koss, Larry Halbert, Sharon Halbert, Jill Dohner, Tamara Dyson, Paula Trilety, Chris Frey, Karen Brown, Jack Smiley, Marti Alston, Peggy Dankert, Terrell J. Mathis

Minutes: Accepted as read

Treasurer's Report, Chester Marvin: Total \$5546.92

Membership Report, Tom McNulty: absent, no report.

President's Report, Sally Petrella

1. **Meeting with new Park Supervisor.** Sally met with the new West District Supervisor, Cynthia Coley and her supervisor, Phil Bartell on March 19. They agreed to have the bags we collect on RAPW picked up after the clean-up. They may not be able to let us use their grill though. On March 22, Craig Bristow, Cynthia Coley and others from City of Detroit General Services Dept. took a tour of Rouge Park and Eliza Howell Park to choose "no mow" grow zone areas and put up signs. Most of Rouge Park and Eliza Howell Park will not be mowed. They will pull out all the abandoned, damaged playground equipment, picnic tables and will demolish the comfort station on outer Dr., south of Tireman. Larry H. suggested collecting the shingles from the comfort station and selling them as a fundraiser. Jack Smiley suggested saving them for when a new comfort station is built. They plan to rehab. the Spinoza and Brennan Pools comfort stations. They didn't mention the Rouge Park Dr. comfort station.

2. **Friends of Eliza Howell Park update.** The judge ruled that the Friends of Eliza Howell Park can file an intervention on behalf of the city. They planned a clean-up on April 3 10am-3pm. About 50 U of M students have confirmed to be there. The city will provide garbage bags and gloves. Several other clean-ups and activities are being planned. Their web site should be up and running soon. A Rugby group wants to use Eliza Howell Park for their practices and tournaments.

3. **Incorporating Friends of Rouge Park.** Leor Barak of Community Legal Resources offered to help us get a pro bono lawyer to help us to incorporate. Sally and Paula met with him on March 23 to get the process started. They are also drafting a fiduciary agreement to collect donations for Friends of Eliza Howell Park until they can get their 501c3 status.

Old Business

1. Meeting with Mayor. Lisa G. has not followed through in making an appt. Sally suggested we meet along with Friends of Eliza Howell Park.

New Business

1. Someone has been **illegally cutting large trees** from the park on Outer Dr. north of Warren and near Tireman and Spinoza. We put a message encouraging people to report if they see anyone cutting. It was suggested that we contact the neighbors around the park to listen for chainsaws.

2. **Rouge Park Appreciation Weekend:** The official dedication ceremony for the Growing Together sculpture will occur around 4pm on June 4. We can get flats of native plants to do a planting from REI, perhaps at the sculpture? Larry is working on a new map of Rouge Park for the event.

3. **5K Run.** Paul suggested working to bring another 5K run into the park instead of doing our own in October. Larry suggested asking the Skillman foundation to assist us in making a run happen. It was generally agreed to cancel the 5K run, though a final decision was not made.

4. **Strategic plan.** We had a discussion on the need to develop a strategic plan for our organization and work toward developing a master plan for the park. Paula made it clear that the \$3000 we raised from the 5K run must be spent on physical improvements to the park. We discussed options to find help getting grant money to help us develop a strategic plan.