

Friends of Rouge Park (FORP) Meeting - June 16, 2010

Attendance:

Rod Liggons (aide to Councilman Tate), Eric Tomlinson (Elite Archery), Lisa Goldsmith (Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Center), Sally Petrella, Chester Marvin (Friends of the Rouge), Paul Schwab, Paul Stark, Paula Trilety (West Outer Dr. Civic Assoc.), Tom McNulty (Detroit Aero Modelers), Patricia Bulter (Cody Rouge Community Action Alliance), JaVaughn Perkins, Angy Webb (Joy Community Organization).

Minutes: Accepted as read

Treasurer's Report-Chester Marvin. Total: \$3747.44 We spent \$1223.39 on Rouge Park Appreciation Day. We received payment for six new members.

Membership Report-Tom McNulty. 54 individual & family memberships and 6 organizational memberships. 60 total memberships. Six new members from 5000 flyers sent to homes.

President's Report-Sally Petrella

1. \$9.2 million city budget cuts: Rod Liggons, aide for City Councilman James Tate, gave an update on the budget fight between the council and the mayor. He mentioned that funds for grass cutting are being cut. Sally said that the city has done well with its minimal cutting in the park so far but under the new plan the city intends to only cut at Cozy Corner and close down Brennan Pools. Sally stressed the importance of keeping Brennan Pools open. He said that we need to get supporters and users of the pools to make themselves heard to the mayor and city council before June 30 to advocate for keeping the pools and park open. We decided to write letters and make phone calls to keep them open.

2. Patricia Butler from Cody/Rouge Community Action Alliance offered to use her email list of 900, and her phone bank, to alert people to contact the mayor and council to keep the park and pools open, and especially to urge children who use the pools to call. She offered to include our flyers with their flyers they are distributing throughout Warrendale east of Evergreen. We gave them 400 flyers. We agreed to send them our flyer electronically so they may make more copies to send out. The Rouge Park Golf Course concession contract is up for bid and Cody/Rouge is working with GolfLinks to ensure some additional amenities such as an ice skating rink might be included. They have asked for Dixon School (which is closing) to be given to Cody/Rouge as a Community center. She announced the opening of the new farmer' market at Joy & Artesian every Tuesday, 4-7pm. Paul Schwab agreed to represent FORP at the quarterly Cody/Rouge Neighborhood Partners meetings

3. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative's Grow Zone grants for prairies in Rouge Park and EHP. Alliance of Rouge Communities received a grant to do controlled burns in fall 2011 to help establish the native prairies. We will support this by doing seed collection to be later planted to expand the prairie. An extensive education and promotional campaign will be necessary to help the nearby residents understand the purpose and the value of the burn.

4. Incorporation of FORP: we need to have a board meeting to discuss FORP incorporation and by-laws changes.

5. We now have a FORP Facebook page! Search for Friends of Rouge Park from within Facebook and click on the "Like" button to join.

6. Eliza Howell Park Update: The judge will make his decision on Sept. 28 on whether Eliza Howell Park will be saved from destruction by Eliza Howell Park Properties.

7. US Social Forum: Sally will join other park groups in a presentation on "Protecting Public Parks" at the US Social Forum June 23, 3:30- 5:30 at the Old Main Bldg at WSU.

Old Business:

1. Membership drive:

2. Rouge Park Appreciation Weekend: We had 133 participants. We filled 70 bags of garlic mustard and garbage. Aristeo pulled the last car out of the river! The areas with the garlic mustard pulls are really improving, new native plants are making a comeback. A new planting at Joy/West Parkway was completed and is beautiful. Annuals donated by Brenda Jones "Detroit Beautification Day" were planted at Warren and Outer Dr.

New Business:

1. Upcoming events:

a. Detroit Aero Modelers Helicopter Fun Fly June 25-27, 9am-3pm

b. Butterfly Walk- Sponsored by FORP and the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association. Aug. 7, 2 pm.

c. Wildflower Seed Collection in October (date to be set).

2. Paula suggested we send a letter to former runners and sponsors asking for a donation in lieu of the 5K Run.

Sightings:

Paula Trilety saw an Eagle at the Rouge Park Golf Course!

Updates from Rouge Park user groups:

1. **Elite Archery** was officially given adoption of the Archery Range on Lahser in Rouge Park.

2. **Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Center** is getting 10 students from the summer youth employment program to work at the horse barn this summer. They are not doing the summer camp this summer

3. **Greening of Detroit** is doing a workforce training program through a Pathways out of Poverty grant. Participants will be certified as landscapers. They submitted their forested wetland grant. In 2011, they plan to plant materials for a demonstration Green Roof.

Announcements:

The Friends of the Rouge: Rain barrell sale on July 10 in Redford, Rouge River Boat Tour on Aug. 3, Rouge River Kayak Trip on Sept. 26. Rouge River Canoe Trip on Oct. 17.

Next meeting: Tues. July 17, 6pm