

Friends of Rouge Park
Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2015

Attendance (16 attendees): Alan VanKerckhove, Sally Petrella-president, Paul Stark-secretary, Tim Kirsten (DAM), Chester Marvin (FOTR)-treasurer, Arthur Edge (FWDCA), Lorraine Harris, Ela Jiga-trustee, Carol Hufnagel-Tetrattech, Roger Cheek-trustee, Tom McNulty-membership chair, Barbara Touzeau, Sarah West, Alicia Chuney, Dan Gravstein, Paula Trilety-trustee (WODCA)

Minutes from January 20 were read and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: (Chester Marvin) Total balance: \$3,043.87.

Membership Report: (Tom McNulty) 52 individual and family memberships and seven organizational memberships.

Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Association: (no report)

DWSD Bioswale and Basin Projects - Carol Hufnagel, Tetrattech. She presented information on the green infrastructure projects on Tireman and at Parkland and Constance. DWSD would be responsible for clearing sediment and other blockages in the system to keep the water flowing correctly. Volunteers would be responsible for maintaining native plants if they want them planted instead of turf grass. DWSD will plant native plants in the swale if we will maintain them, add a path and assist people on Tireman if they want they want to maintain plants rather than grass in the new drainage area on their lawns. Two plans are proposed for Constance: an above ground basin and a below ground basin. Alan VanKerckhove spoke in opposition to the above ground system since it would disrupt the natural hydrology of the park.

Master Plan Update. Lawrence Tech has completed their master plan for Rouge Park. The plan includes more details on two areas: the Nature Center Area at Tireman and Outer Drive, and the Joy & Spinoza Area as a recreation center for the park and a signage plan.

City plans for Brennan Recreation Area. As part of the \$600,000 in improvements to the area, the city asked for our feedback on styles of benches, picnic tables and garbage cans. Sally passed photos around for our input. Some in the city are opposing basketball courts because of concerns of it interfering with the family focus of the area. We agreed that a combination of the city Recreation Dept. programming from youth basketball leagues and continued increased police patrol in the area should control the problems. Mike Jacob's email suggested rehabilitating the submerged court by the Sorenson area. There was no support for that idea. There was consensus that we still would like the basketball courts with organized youth leagues in the old tennis courts.

Rouge Park Appreciation Day - May 30. Quicken Loans is offering a couple hundred volunteers this year! Awards for the most unusual thing found in the river, and award for the most garlic mustard pulled. Friends of the Rouge is applying for a grant that requires more work directly in and by the river, so we'll have to develop more projects that fit with this goal. Volunteers are needed to help with registrstion, hotdogs and leading projects. Sign-up sheet passed around.

Keen Co. Grant. Offering a \$10,000 grant for projects designed to involve new people in outdoor recreation. Alycia Chuney of the Student Conservation Organization offered to help work on the grant. We discussed possibly using the grant money for developing camping in Scout Hollow, or a bump track for mountain biking. Decided to wait for next roundcas March 1 is too soon to develop the idea.

Meeting adjourned 7:23pm