

Friends of Rouge Park - Meeting Minutes – April 18, 2017

Attendance (30 attendees): Roger Cheek-membership chair, Lisa Goldsmith-corresponding sec'y, Chester Marvin (FOTR)-treasurer, Paul Stark-secretary, Sally Petrella-president, Paula Trilety-trustee, Roger Corpolongo, trustee, Stephen Cook, Tom McNulty, Barb Matney (WCO), Sam Shopinski (NKF), Tim Kirsten, Dee Pearl, R. Jesus McNair, Sarah West, Chris Bond, Dustin Campbell-aide to Wayne County Commissioner Alisha Bell, Kevin Nolan, Tamara Dyson, Denise Martinez, Shayne Sisco, Odell Tate-Manager-Park&Rec, Cindy & Doug Ritz, Sophia Stockum, Lorraine Harris-FWDCA, Heather Ivey-DPD Officer, Alan VanKerckove, Gladys Perkins, Anton Flowers

Minutes from March were read and accepted

Treasurer's Report: (Chester Marvin)

For the period from Mar. 21 to Apr. 18: \$10.00 in memberships, Total income: \$10.00. Expenses: \$0.00. Balance: \$5,336.68

Membership Report: (no report)

Police Update (Officer Ivey) 313-643-0055

2-3 scouts cars are patrolling 4pm-midnight, . 7 days/week at Rouge, Stein, Eliza Howell and Wilson parks. A concern was raised that the police are not clearing people out of Rouge Park at dusk. Concerns were raised regarding the new park rules signs that state the park closes at 10pm whereas street signs say no standing after dark. This confusion needs to be resolved. It was suggested that all signs say the park closes at dusk. Concerns of abandoned dogs, mini-bikes on the Stone Bridge trail and food dumping in the park were raised.

President's Report

1. Our \$5,000 NEEF grant to pay a Project Manager to coordinate projects and volunteers has been submitted.
2. Sylvia Santana organized a tour of the 7th district for several house members and the mayor. Sally spoke on the importance of Rouge Park and she spoke with the mayor about closing Rouge Park to traffic on summer weekends. They stopped at the Buffalo Soldiers Barn on the tour.
3. Paul & Sally took Jennifer Reinhardt of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network on a tour of the park. She is looking into doing more research on park history and to develop ways to make the information available to the public. She is also looking into helping to find funding to restore the roof of the barn.
4. Tireman bioswale update. A 6" under drain was installed to reduce flooding. The project should be completed by April 28. They are still working on the design for the Constance Project.
5. USFS developed an educational app, Discovery Agents, for children that includes the Stone Bridge Nature Trail in Rouge Park.
6. Rouge Park Golf Course: a motion was unanimously passed authorizing the board to write a letter to city council and the mayor voicing our opposition to the sale of the Rouge Park Golf Course.
7. Last Saturday, April 15, Wayne State Anthropology students did a clean-up at the barn and along Joy Rd. They filled 28 bags of garbage.

Trust Fund Projects: The three proposals (Sorenson, Cozy Corners & Brennan) have been submitted. They should hear by the end of the year. The city is negotiating with the Detroit Land Bank to add the Tireman Apartments land to the park.

Scout Hollow: Garrett rescheduled the teacher meeting about using Rouge Park for environmental education for June 10.

The Tour deTroit Rouge-A-Thlon is April 22. 75 have registered so far.

National Kidney Foundation Update (Sam Shopinski)

Stay fit for Health Event: Friday evening is the splash party and movie at 3pm. The Run/Walk will be held Saturday morning and the Jazz & Yoga event will be held on Sunday. The mileage signs are up (each 1/4 mile) and six destination signs are up: Archery Range, Joe Prance, Sorenson Promenade, Scout Hollow, Native Prairie and Butterfly Garden (including an interpretive sign).

Clean-up Sat. 4/22, 2-3pm sponsored by the geo-caching group. www.geocaching.com

Rouge Park Appreciation Day, May 20. New projects: Delta Psi from Wayne State will work in Joe Prance. Al will lead a group in the Stone Bridge Trail. Tamara will lead a planting by Brennan Pools. We estimate 200 volunteers. Pre-registration is available online. Barb suggested changing the date next year so it doesn't conflict with the Motor City Makeover. We received official permission to camp in Scout Hollow May 20. The 8am bird walk on Sunday is set.

New Event: Celebration of Literacy June 3 11am-4pm at the Brennan Rec Area.

Announcement: (Antoine Flowers from Parks & Rec) Brennan Pools will be a distribution site for the city's Food Service Program. They are offering contracts for bid for catering businesses and small restaurants, etc. to provide the food for the summer. 313-224-1915

Meeting adjourned 7:40pm