

Friends of Rouge Park - Meeting Minutes – May 16, 2017

Attendance (19 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, Tom McNulty-trustee, Barb Matney (WCO), Tim Kirsten, Dee Pearl, R. Jesus McNair, Dustin Campbell-aide to Wayne County Commissioner Alisha Bell, Tamara Dyson, Tricia Hamzik (YMCA), Alan VanKerckove, Juliana Fulton (City of Detroit), Garrett Dempsey (Sierra Club), Ladon Davis-aide to councilperson Gabe Leland.

Minutes from April were read and accepted

Treasurer's Report: (Chester Marvin)

For the period from Mar. 21 to May 16, we received \$38.66 for individual & family memberships, \$98.45 for organizational memberships and donations of \$87.21 and \$5.00. Total income: \$229.32. Expenses: \$61.25. Balance: \$5,504.75

Membership Report: for the last two months (Roger Cheek) :

We received one new individual and family membership, two individual and family renewals, and one organizational renewal. Total Membership: 46 individual and family memberships and 8 organizational memberships

President's Report

1. USFS developed an educational app, Discovery Agents, for children that includes the Stone Bridge Nature Trail in Rouge Park. On Friday, May 19, Ann Arbor Trail students will use the app at the Stone Bridge Nature Trail.
2. Athena Zissis, the Wayne State Anthropology student who organized the clean-up at the barn and along Joy Rd. last month was chosen as intern for the National Park Service (Juliana Fulton's old position). She will be involved in Rouge Park.
3. The new wayfinding signs are up in the park.
4. Report on Rouge-A-Thlon: 83 participants. They will return next spring.

Rouge Park Appreciation Day/Rouge Rescue May 20

The USFS is providing the porta-potties for the event. City Councilperson Gabe Leland will pay for the tent, but not the chairs and tables (\$250-300). The Buffalo Soldiers will sponsor the food, \$325.00. Tom McNulty will pick up the water. Set-up and registration is at 7am. Sally will bring the banner and supplies. Donna will bring small tents. Projects (leaders in parentheses): Stone Bridge and along Tireman: Garlic mustard/garbage (Paul Stark, Al Van Kerckove) with Rock Ventures volunteers. Tireman Bridge sidewalk brush removal: (Ani or John Berger) with Rock Ventures volunteers. Joe Prance: Garlic mustard and garbage (Sarah West) with Sorority volunteers. Scout Hollow: Garlic mustard and garbage (Garrett Dempsey) with YMCA and sorority volunteers. Horse Barn: Painting (Lisa Goldsmith). Sorenson Promenade - Garlic mustard, trail clearing (Juliana Fulton) with Social Security volunteers. Roving crew: trash (Mike McNulty). Brennan Pools: planting (Tamara Dyson). Pierson & Warren: Tree planting (Greening of Detroit). Lunch and Cleanup (Tom McNulty) with DAM volunteers.

Camping in Scout Hollow: 20-30 campers expected. David Goldstein may be organizing another star watching party for the camping in Scout Hollow. Sally will look into it. Sunday at 8am, Leonard Webber of the Audubon Society will lead the bird walk. Sally will remind officer Ivey about the camping.

Update from Detroit Parks & Rec (Juliana Fulton): City is working on getting Scout Hollow mowed for our camping night. DWSD will start charging a drainage fee of \$750/acre of impervious surfaces (roads, parking lots, basketball courts, etc.) that drain into the sewer system instead of to the river. So city is surveying where drains run directly to the river or to the sewer system.

Upcoming Events

Literacy Event June 3. July 21-23 Cleanup, movie/splash party, Stay Fit for Health run, yoga. Grow Cody Week July 24-28.

Update on Scout Hollow (Garrett Dempsey): Sierra Club received a \$10,000 REI stewardship grant for students to do trail development and maintenance at Scout Hollow, Sorenson and Joe Prance this fall. Sierra Club Connection Outdoors is applying for a \$20,000 grant from Nearby Nature for Scout Hollow. They also applied for a Fund Your Park (crowdfunding) grant for an outdoor classroom for Scout Hollow (stumps and stones). Garrett rescheduled the meeting for DPS teachers about using Rouge Park for environmental education for June 10, 10am - 2pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.