

Friends of Rouge Park - Meeting Minutes – June 20, 2017

Attendance (16 attendees):

Chester Marvin (FOTR)-treasurer, Paul Stark-secretary, Sally Petrella-president, Paula Trilety-trustee, Roger Corpolongo, trustee, Tom McNulty-trustee, Tim Kirsten, R. Jesus McNair, Tamara Dyson, Garrett Dempsey (Sierra Club), Marty Bastien, Roslyn Ogburn-Minock Block Club, Brenda Thompson-Minock Block Club, Heather Ivy-Detroit Police, Sarah West, Eric Tomlinson-Elite Archery

Minutes from May were read and accepted

Treasurer's Report: (Chester Marvin)

For the period from May 16 to June 20, we received \$25 for individual & family memberships, \$50 for organizational memberships and donations of \$425.86 Kroger: \$55.19 (20th out of 30th), \$192.00 for FOTR software. Total income: \$747.19. Expenses: \$675.08 for RPAD (\$296.08 food, \$379.00 for tables), \$192 for FOTR software. Total expenses: \$867.08. Balance: \$5,384.

Membership Report: (No report) :

President's Report

1. Sylvia Santana organized a bus tour of Rouge Park and several other communities for seven Quicken Loans/Rock Ventures employees involved in funding community projects. Sally led the tour of Rouge Park. They expressed interest in funding projects in Rouge Park.
2. Stone Bridge Kiosk glass smashed and map stolen. The city agreed to pay to replace the map and glass.
3. Residents across from the park are putting yard waste on the park side of the street. Sally reported this to DPW.

Rouge Park Appreciation Day/Rouge Rescue May 20 Reports and Evaluation

146 volunteers, plus 100 volunteers planting trees with Greening of Detroit. We likely had fewer volunteers since it was the same day at the Motor City Makeover. Volunteers collected 1200 lbs. garbage from 5,000 sq. ft. of parkland, and 1659 lbs. of garlic mustard and 33 cu. yd of honeysuckle. One person got poison ivy at Brennan Pools while weeding the flower gardens. Camping went well, but smaller group because of the rain. We had a thunderstorm at night and were visited by turkeys in the morning. About 8 people joined us for the Audubon bird walk where we glimpsed a coyote along the river.

Update from Detroit Parks & Rec (no report, Sally provided information from Juliana): Prairie Trail is being cut regularly this summer. The first cut is complete. An area in the butterfly garden was also mowed where 18 flats of native plants can be planted. The city has been working on the mowing plan involving Juliana, Brad Dick, Chris Romeo, Todd Mistor and Sally. They are reducing mowing in the large expanses of grass with no recreational purpose. "Grow zone" signs and "re-forestation project" signs will help the public to understand why these areas are not being mowed. We passed around the map and discussed areas that are not being mowed such as West Chicago west of Outer Dr. and Outer Dr. north of Plymouth.

Upcoming Events & Clean-ups

5k run, splash party/movie night and jazz yoga. 7/21-23. A clean-up is planned for Friday 7/21 before the movie and splash party. Grow Cody Week volunteers from GM and Quicken Loans will be in Rouge Park July 27-29. 20 volunteers picking up trash, 20 volunteers trimming overgrowth on the paved trail, 20 volunteers in the Prairie (Friday only) and 20 volunteers on the Joy Rd. bridge steps (Friday only). Rock Ventures High School interns will do volunteer work in the Prairie on Mon July 31. 2017 Caribbean Family Reunion Picnic at

the Brennan Recreation Area on June 24th from 9am-8pm, hosted by the Carribbean Family Reunion.

Update on Scout Hollow (Garrett Dempsey):

1. The Sierra Club received the \$10,000 REI Grant for trail work in Scout Hollow. There will be a series of volunteer events, some large and some small, to create a new trail around Scout Hollow and to rehabilitate the trails in Joe Prance and Sorenson. REI created a Hiking App that helps people find local hiking trails, the grant will include work to incorporate the Rouge Park trails into the app.
2. the June 10 Teacher workshop on using Rouge Park for environmental education was canceled. Instead, Sierra Club will just focus on a small group of teachers with a strong interest in using Rouge Park for environmental education.

Discussion on our goals for 2017

1. Close park to traffic on at least one weekend this year. Garrett will lead.
2. Move grow zone signs: Paul will lead.
3. Till Prairie Pathway
4. Plan monthly park activities: Paula will lead.
5. Invasive plant removal
6. Designated park signs, and no parking signs
7. Fine for Dumping signs
8. "Dogs on Leash" sign
9. Develop camping at Scout Hollow
10. Paint bike lanes throughout park
11. Increase membership and member involvement.

We need a paid staff member!

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.