

Friends of Rouge Park Meeting Minutes—July 18, 2017

1. Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. There were fifteen attendees: Arthur Edge—Vice President, Chester Marvin (FOTR)—Treasurer, Roger Cheek—Membership Chair, Paula Trilety (WODCA)—Trustee, Roger Corpolongo—Trustee, Lorraine Harris (FWDCA), Eric Tomlinson (Elite Archery), Brenda Thompson, Roslyn Ogburn, Juliana Fulton (City of Detroit), Joyell Lewis (Office of Councilman Gabe Leland), Lisa Goldsmith (Buffalo Soldiers), Sam Shopinski (National Kidney Foundation), NPO Heather Ivey (Sixth Precinct) and Sgt. Elaine Williams (Community Relations, Sixth Precinct).

2. Minutes: The June minutes were unavailable. They will be presented at the September meeting.

3. Treasurer's Report: For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, total income was \$7,978.51 (\$684.63 from membership and \$7,293.88 from contributions, grants and Other). Total expenses were \$6,716.66 (\$377.71 December holiday meeting; \$736.33 Rouge Park Appreciation Day; and \$5,602.62 other (mostly signage in the park). We ended the year with a surplus of \$1,261.85. The present balance is \$5,369.41. Chester also set up a budget for the next year. Paula and Arthur reviewed the budget and approved it. The Treasurer's Report is accepted subject to audit.

4. Membership Report: Roger Cheek reported we currently have 48 individual and family memberships as well as sixteen organizational memberships. In the past month Roger received a membership from Pamela Ferrara and \$50 from West Outer Drive Civic Association. The persons in attendance agreed that the Board should discuss the amount of dues that block clubs should be paying. Should they pay \$50 for an organizational membership or should they pay a lesser amount? This needs to be addressed to determine whether a block club is a separate entity or an organization.

5. President's Report: Arthur Edge conducted the meeting for Sally Petrella so there was no President's report.

6. Events and Clean-Ups:

a. Slow Roll, Monday July 17th—Lisa Goldsmith reported that there were so many bicycles that she could not get home. There were cars parked along all roads that had available parking. Juliana stated that she believed there were 700 participants.

b. July 21-23, Parks and Rec Week-End—Juliana stated that the Stay Fit 3K/5K scheduled for Saturday is cancelled due to lack of participation. The Friday and Sunday events will be held including the clean-up. Volunteers are needed to assist with the clean-up from 8 a.m. to noon on Friday. All members are encouraged to assist if possible.

c. GM Grow Cody Week—Paula and Tamara will meet the crew assigned to trash clean-up at Plymouth and W. Outer Drive; Juliana will meet the crew assigned to the bike trail brush clearing; and Sally, Paul and Matthew will meet the crew working on the Prairie. The crews will be working in Rouge Park on Wednesday through Friday, July 26th to July 28th from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Attendees were encouraged to stop and interact with the volunteers during these three days.

d. **Butterfly Walk, Sunday, July 30th**—Meet at the Prairie Trail on W. Outer Drive, south of Joy Road.

e. **Rock Ventures Work Day, Monday, July 31st**—The volunteer crew will finish up work in the prairie.

7. Scout Hollow

a. REI Grant for trail work—re-granting to FORP for intern stipends: Juliana reported that Garrett will have two WSU interns working on the Sorenson Trail, Joe Prance Trail and Butterfly Garden, and Scout Hollow Trail. The high school intern will work on developing a Rouge Park Trails app. Paula saw them with Garrett and Jac at Joe Prance last week.

8. City

a. Mowing plan and 10 new Grow Zone/ 10 Reforestation Signs to be placed in the park: Juliana and Sally designed the signs which will be placed in strategic areas of the park. The grow zone and reforestation signs will allow clean-up and mowing crews to concentrate on heavily used areas of the park.

b. Juliana announced that Rouge Park was named as one of the five best running trails in the metro area by Model D news magazine.

9. Cody Rouge Family Fun Day and Back to School Rally, Aug. 19th from Noon to 4 p.m: Paula appealed for a volunteer to sit at a vendor table and try to recruit memberships for the organization. There were no volunteers for the event largely due to other commitments of the Board members.

10. Other Issues and Updates:

a. Arthur asked that DPD monitor dumping in the park at Rouge Park Drive and W. Outer Drive *and* across from Greening of Detroit, W. Outer Drive between W. Chicago and Rouge Park Drive. Construction debris and furniture is being dumped, after dark, on a regular basis.

b. D Town Farm is hosting a Health Harvest Bazaar this Saturday, July 22nd, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

c. Roger reported food (bread, bagels, rolls) is being dumped on Spinoza near Tireman; and, the bike trail from cannon to Warren is so overgrown you can hardly walk on it. Juliana will report the problem.

d. Eric asked whether the Buffalo Soldiers had plans to maintain the Horse trail. The answer is no.

e. Gabe Leland's Health Fair is being held Sat., July 22nd from 10 – 2 p.m. The location is 5000 Joy Road.

f. GM Grow Cody Rouge Week is bringing a team to the Buffalo Soldiers Barn to reinstall fence posts, paint, and clean up the back lot.

g. Far West Picnic, Saturday, July 22nd. Arthur extended an invitation to all and passed out flyers.

h. National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 1st at Don Bosco from 5 to 8 p.m. They will have a petting zoo, train, live entertainment and food. Volunteers may report beginning at 4 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Paula Trilety for Paul Stark