

Friends of Rouge Park - Meeting Minutes – Sept. 19, 2017

Attendance (23 attendees):

Chester Marvin (FOTR)-treasurer, Paul Stark-secretary, Sally Petrella-president, Paula Trilety-trustee, Roger Corpolongo, trustee, Tom McNulty-trustee, Roger Cheek-membership chair, Ela Jiga, Tamara Dyson, Marty Bastien, Sarah West, Eric Tomlinson-Elite Archery, Al Van Kerckove, Lorraine Harris-FWDCA, Peggy Dankert, Joyell Lewis-Gabe Leland's Aide, Cindy Ritz, Doug Ritz, Barb Matney-WCO, Joe Matney-WCO, Jim Gallagher, Dexter Jenkins, Eric Holka

Minutes from July were read and accepted

Treasurer's Report for the period from July 18-Sept. 19: (Chester Marvin)

Income: \$4.55 in memberships, \$750 donation from Kresge, \$50 donation from Erb Foundation, \$2150 for Sierra Club's grant for trail work, and \$48.67 from Kroger for a total of \$3003.22

Expenses: \$20 to state for incorporation, \$2000 for Sierra Club grant for a total of \$2020.00.

Balance: \$7664.16.

Membership Report: (Roger Cheek): 36 regular memberships and 12 organizational memberships. Paula made a motion to change the “family membership” rate to include block club membership (family/block club). Block clubs will no longer pay the \$50 organizational rate.

President's Report

1. Our NEEF grant proposal for part time project manager was not approved nor was the NEEF grant for events we partnered with Sierra Inspiring Connections Outdoors.
2. The FORP Board met Aug. 28. They discussed a new location for our meetings since Don Bosco Hall is no longer available in the evenings. They also began a discussion on developing goals for a 5-year plan for our organization. The board made the following decisions: 1. to approve a budget for 2018, including \$5000 for a part-time project manager; 2. to change our fiscal year to the calendar year; 3. to change our annual meeting to January, February or March instead of December. Joy-Southfield CDC is planning to erect a billboard saying “Gateway to Rouge Park” on Joy Rd. They asked us for a photo of Rouge Park for the billboard. Juliana Fulton put together a collage of photos by Donna Hall and others into a draft of the billboard, we passed it around for comments. The next board meeting is Oct. 12.

Summer Event Report

1. City Events July 21-23: The Walk/Run was canceled due to low registration. The clean up was poorly organized. The Splash Party and Movie went well. The city

hired a new marketing manager who has offered to help with closing the park to cars on weekends next summer, and to better promote park events.

2. GM Grow Cody Week: GM employees were AMAZING! Four different projects were done in Rouge Park (trimming paved path, prairie planting, Joy/Outer Dr. trash clean up and Plymouth/Rouge River Dr. trash cleanup).
3. A FOTR Bicycle Tour led by Al Van Kerckove on August 26 included a stretch through Rouge Park. The paved path was cleared well for the ride. Detroit Police offered an escort through intersections.
4. Butterfly Walk, July 30. 36 people attended. 11 species were identified. Donna Hall brought caterpillars and chrysalis from four species. Al Van Kerckove organized a clean-up before the event.
5. Rock Ventures Work Day on August 31. High school interns helped plant and water native plants in the butterfly garden.
6. Dog Pool Party was poorly attended. It was unusually cold.

Scout Hollow Update

Sierra Inspiring Connections Outdoors received a grant for trail work and promotion in Rouge Park. We acted as the fiduciary for them to pay three interns to work on developing an app for the Stone Bridge Nature Trail and to work on the Joe Prance Nature Trail. Kresge will fund a Sierra Club internship position to develop programming for Scout Hollow camping, and for acquisition of camping gear. The grant does not pay for infrastructure.

Update from Detroit Parks & Rec (Sally provided information from Juliana Fulton):

Michigan Trust fund grant proposal update: Sorenson Rec Area improvements are most likely to receive funding, the Brennan Pools splash pad is less likely and the Joy/Spinoza Cozy Corner improvements are least. Rock Ventures has shown interest in funding improvements at Cozy Corners. Wilson Foundation and city are talking about funding Brennan Rec. Area improvements. City funded new grow zone signs and re-forestation area signs. FORP worked with the city to develop a new mowing plan to prioritize recreation areas and leave natural areas intact.

Greening of Detroit Update Greening planted trees at Warren and Pierson this summer and are currently planting native plants in the south end of the Prairie Pathway.

NKF Report. Sam Shopinski is working with Juliana Fulton and John Armstrong on building a kiosk at the southern Prairie entrance similar to the one at the Stone Bridge nature Trail. They will need volunteers to help erect it!

New Business

1. Peggy Dankert asked about the status of the Tireman Swale Project. Sally will contact DWSD and ask for an update for next meeting.
2. Al Van Kerckove suggested that we construct a rain garden at the north entrance to the Prairie Pathway along Outer Drive (maybe a project for GM volunteers next year?).

3. We unanimously decided to meet regularly at the Westside Christian Academy.

Announcements

1. Healthy Detroit is looking to expand into the Rouge Park area and develop a “Health Park”.

Meeting adjourned at 7:22pm.