

Friends of Rouge Park - Meeting Minutes – Nov. 21, 2017

Attendance (22 attendees): Chester Marvin (FOTR)-treasurer, Paul Stark-secretary, Sally Petrella-president, Paula Trilety-trustee, Roger Corpolongo, trustee, Tom McNulty-trustee, Roger Cheek-membership chair, Tamara Dyson, Marty Bastien, Al Van Kerckove, Peggy Dankert, Jim Gallagher, Kahmari White-TetraTech, Tim Kirsten-DAM, Ela Jiga, Tiffany Carey-UofM, Joyell Lewis-Gabe Leland aide, Eric Kehoe-Preservation Detroit, Joe Haskins, Sarah West, Garrett Dempsey-Sierra Club, Fai Foen-Greening of Detroit.

Minutes from October were read and accepted

Treasurer's Report for the period from October 17-Nov 21: (Chester Marvin)

Income: \$161.70: \$24.55 in memberships, \$124.41 in donations, \$12.74 from Amazon Smile. Expenses: \$0. Balance: \$6875.86. We discussed getting a credit card for our organization. Chester will look into it.

Membership Report: (Roger Cheek): 3 new members. No totals reported for memberships.

President's Report

1. Sally met with BSHA and chose a site at the barn for the tree planting in memory of Lisa Goldsmith. Saturday May 5 at noon is the tentative date for the planting. After the planting they are planning a memorial motorcycle ride through the park. Jim Mills will be taking over the central role for running BSHA. We will accept donations for the tree and bench.
2. RPAD is set for May 19. We agreed to do an additional clean-up day earlier, tentatively April 28.
3. The dog obedience classes being held illegally near the archery range were investigated by the city and the classes have ceased.
4. Sewer lining project on Warren Ave. GLWA has promised to replace any trees they damage as part of the project.
5. The Mayor's Dist 7 meeting is scheduled for Nov. 28

Old Business

1. Sorenson Area Restoration Project. The grant we applied for will only cover 20% of the costs (\$6000). The other 80% will be paid by the city and with GM and FORP volunteer time.
2. The 10 new grow zone signs and 10 new reforestation signs will be placed soon.
3. The new prairie kiosk was completed by Sam Shopinski of the NKF and other volunteers. He is also working on planning the Rouge-a-thon for 2018.
4. Scout Hollow Camping Initiative. (Garrett Dempsey). Trail work was completed on the Joe Prance Nature Trail. Custom Environments Landscaping company removed construction debris from the old comfort station location on Outer Drive north of Dover St. The city placed boulders to keep future dumpers out. Next spring they plan to work on the Scout Hollow Trail and in Sorenson rec. area. A Kresge grant for \$200,000 was received for programming in Scout Hollow. The city will hire a full time person to work with Garrett to create a camping equipment library and a camping program for youth. The local Sierra Club group applied for a grant from the National Sierra Club to fund campfire discussions about Rouge Park to help Sierra Club volunteers get to know the communities surrounding Rouge Park and their ideas and concerns about the park.
5. Fai Foen of the Greening of Detroit Introduced herself. She reported that the site at the south end of the Prairie has been cleared and they will begin seeding the area at the end of November. They received funding to plant 500 trees (four species of whips) in the Meyer Nursery on Nov. 22. They are providing a training program for tree trimming other skills for Detroit residents.
6. Tireman Swale Update. (Kahmari White - TetraTech) Seeding has been completed. Native plants will be planted next spring. Three maple trees have been replaced. Our new contact with DWSD will be

Valerie Novak. The boulders and rocks have been removed. Leaves will be cleared from the seeded areas and the drains will be cleared monthly. Four permanent information signs will be placed over the winter.

New Business

1. Preservation Detroit (Eric Kehoe). They are Building a neighborhood coalition to develop a city preservation plan.
2. UofM Wildlife Research (Tiffany Carey). 45 wildgame cameras are being placed at 26 sites in Detroit to study carnivores. Four will be placed in Rouge Park in December.
3. FOTR Invasive plant survey. FOTR has a grant to do a survey of invasive species in Rouge Park. They have done parts of the southern end of the park (south of Joy) so far.
4. Holiday Meeting: Dec. 19, 6pm at Tijuana's Mexican Kitchen, 18950 Ford Rd.

Announcement: Work may be starting on the Ashcroft Drain culvert on West Parkway.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.