

## Friends of Rouge Park - Meeting Minutes – Jan 16, 2018

**Attendance (19 attendees):** Chester Marvin (FOTR)-treasurer, Paul Stark-secretary, Sally Petrella-president, Paula Trilety-trustee, Roger Corpolongo, trustee, Tom McNulty-trustee, Peggy Dankert-trustee, Roger Cheek-membership chair, Tamara Dyson, Tim Kirsten-DAM, Ela Jiga, Lorraine Harris-FWDCA, Doug Ritz, Cindy Ritz, Barb Matney-WCO, Joe Matney-WCO, James Mills-BSHA, Al Van Kerckove, Jac Kyle, Detroit Parks & Rec.

**Minutes** from November were read and accepted.

**Treasurer's Report** for the period from Nov 21-Jan 16: (Chester Marvin)

Total income: \$56.48. We received \$20.00 in donations and \$36.48 from the Kroger Community Awards program. We need to promote the program to increase our donations. Total expenses: \$169. \$50 to join Motor City National Heritage Areas and a \$119 reimbursement to Paul for two more years for our website. Balance: \$6763.34. Since we began the Kroger Community Awards program, Kroger has donated \$1984 to us. Chester will look into getting a debit card for our organization.

**Membership Report:** (Roger Cheek): One family renewal. One organizational renewal. No totals reported for memberships. Roger Cheek is resigning as Membership Chair. Paul will take over as acting chair until a new chair is named.

### President's Report

1. Custom Environments Landscaping Company's volunteer work on Outer Drive north of Dover was valued as a \$3116 tax deduction for them.
2. Preservation Detroit is planning to hold a benefit at Brennan Pools Building.
3. Deer crossing signs. Peggy Dankert contacted Wayne County Parks and Commissioner Alicia Bell's office and they agreed to put up signs on Joy Rd. We need to document deer kills in other locations if we want more signs.
4. BSHA report (Jimmy Mills). They have patched the roof but it needs to be replaced, which will cost \$60,000.

### Old Business

#### 1. Upcoming Events:

- a. RPAD is set for May 19. A Scout Camporee is being planned by Garrett Dempsey and Jac Kyle.
- b. Spring Clean-Up Day: April 28
- c. Rouge-a-thlon April 21
- d. The tree planting, bench and plaque in memory of Lisa Goldsmith will be placed on Saturday June 2 at noon, after the planting they are planning a memorial motorcycle ride through the park.
- e. GM Cody Rouge Days
- f. Butterfly Walk, no date set yet.

2. Sorenson Area Restoration Project. We received the Motor Cities National Heritage Grant for \$6,000 for the project. It is mostly for historical interpretive signs. Julianna Fulton and Athena Zissis, National Park Service Fellow, are working on it. It will include an aggregate path for better access and clearing the paths and house foundation. The total project is funded at \$30,000.

#### 3. City of Detroit – Michigan Trust Fund Grant Projects

- a. Sorenson Rec Area: ball fields, playground and picnic shelter.
- b. Brennan Pools Splash Pad within the fenced pool area.
- c. Additional grant for Brennan Rec Area. We will find out more details in February.

4. Detroit Outdoors Program at Scout Hollow. Jac Kyle was hired by the City of Detroit Parks & Rec. She is focusing on outdoor recreation, especially bringing youth camping back to Scout Hollow. She is working on

developing a camping gear library, camp leadership training, programming and environmental education.

5. Carnivore Research Update: They will retrieve the cameras in March. Photos can be seen, and volunteers can help identify animals, at [www.zooniverse.org/projects/michiganzoomin/michigan-zoomin](http://www.zooniverse.org/projects/michiganzoomin/michigan-zoomin)

#### New Business

1. Rouge Park Open Streets: Paul presented the masterplan's goal of phasing in the weekend traffic closures of the park. Paula suggested closing Outer Dr. first. Paul will look into revising the plan and will forward it to Julianna. We discussed the importance of the city embracing the idea and promoting the weekend closures.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.