

Friends of Rouge Park - Meeting Minutes – March 20, 2018

Attendance (40 attendees): Chester Marvin (FOTR)-treasurer, Paul Stark-secretary, Sally Petrella-president, Paula Trilety-trustee, Roger Corpolongo, trustee, Tom McNulty-trustee, Peggy Dankert-trustee, Barb Matney-WCO, Joe Matney-WCO, Marty Bastien, Joe Haskins, Garrett Dempsey-Sierra Club, Sarah West, Eric Tomlinson-Elite Archery, Jim Gallagher, Juliana Fulton-City of Detroit, John DeRuiter-City of Detroit, Donna Miller-City of Detroit, Andrea Gallucci-historian, Jack R. Smiley, Mattie Green, Leatrice Thompson-Girls Scouts, Sara Sanders-Girl Scouts, Dan Christian-TetraTech, Dan Graustein, Kenyetta Campbell-CRCAA, Mary Lynn, John Semegen, Mike Jacobs-City of Detroit, James Mills-BSHA, Valerie Novaes-DWSD, Lisa Wallick-DWSD, Alex Valentino-District 7, Mona Ali-District 7, Ladon Davis-Leland's Aide, Stephen Cook, JaVaughn Perkins, Dustin Campbell-Alisha Bell's Aide, William Davis-BOPC, Alan Van Kerckove

Minutes from February were read and accepted.

Treasurer's Report for the period from Feb. 20-March 20 (Chester Marvin)

Total income: \$142.42. We received \$105 in memberships, \$37.44 in Kroger donations. Total expenses: \$0. Balance: \$7,036.32.

Membership Report: (Paula Trilety): 42 regular memberships and 8 organization memberships.

President's Report

1. **Summer Weekend Traffic Closures** – Sally is working with the City's General Services, Recreation & Traffic Engineering Depts., the Open Streets organization and other partners to plan the closures. They are planning a kick-off in July and then plan to close on weekends for the rest of the summer. We will need to form a committee of park user groups to plan activities for the kick-off day.
2. **The FORP Annual Meeting** will be on April 17, 6pm at Brennan Pools Banquet Hall. Dinner will be served.
3. **May 5 Arbor Foundation Tree Distribution** – They need volunteers to help unload and distribute trees. Motion (made by Paula, seconded by Chester) to co-sponsor the event was passed unanimously. Five members volunteered to help.

City of Detroit Presentation on Park Plans (Donna Hall, John DeRuiter, Mike Jacobs, Juliana Fulton)

1. **Sorenson Improvements** (Mike Jacobs) Improvements include an asphalt walkway loop around the area. One football/soccer field, one softball diamond, a playground and a picnic shelter. He led a discussion on playground options: the consensus was that it should be designed as indestructible as possible. Bike racks were suggested as well as a small parking lot since there is a lot of street parking available.,
2. **Brennan Recreation Area Improvements** (John DeRuiter). He distributed a map showing phase 1 & 2 of the improvements.
3. **Proposal for grading for new sports hub** (Juliana Fulton). Funds are available for grading an area large enough for three football fields at Cozy Corners (NE corner of Joy & Spinoza). Discussion followed regarding pros and cons.

Detroit Water & Sewerage Department – West Warren Green Stormwater Infrastructure Project (Valerie Novaes, Lisa Wallick). They reviewed the progress so far on the project. They will finish the planting in the Tireman Bioswale in a few weeks. They received feedback on the projects from several members.

Detroit Outdoors Program at Scout Hollow. Camp training is starting soon for Scout Hollow. Their new web site, detroitoutdoors.org is up and running.

Upcoming Events:

1. Annual Meeting April 17
2. Rouge-a-thlon April 21 sponsored by Tour-De-Troit.
3. Spring Clean-Up Day: April 28, 10:00am. Buffalo Soldiers Barn
4. Arbor Foundation Free Tree Distribution at West District Office, May 5, 9am-1pm
5. Michigan Botanical Club Plant Walk at the Stone Bridge Nature Trail, May 6, 2pm
6. 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.
7. GM Cody Rouge Days: Apr. 16-20, 4/30-5/5, 7/30-8/5
8. Butterfly Walk, Aug. 5.
9. Sept. 8 ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the Sorenson Rec. Area

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.