

Friends of Rouge Park - Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2018

Attendance (12 attendees):

Chester Marvin (FOTR)-treasurer, Paul Stark-secretary, Sally Petrella-president, Roger Corpolongo, trustee, Tom McNulty-trustee, Tim Kirsten-DAM, Sam Shopinski-NKF, Jim Gallagher, Marty Bastien, Peggy Dankert, Paula Trilety-membership, Garrett Dempsey-Sierra Club.

Minutes from July were read and accepted.

Treasurer's Report for the period from July 17-Sept 18 (Chester Marvin)

We received \$9.03 from Amazon Smile, \$34.33 from Kroger Rewards, \$32.78 in memberships. Total income: \$76.14. Expenses: \$50.00 for BSHA refund of mistaken payment, \$20.00 for our Annual Corporation fee. Total: 70.00. Balance: \$8,555.70.

Membership Report for the period from July 17-Sept 18: (Paula Trilety): One member renewed and 11 new members this month. Total members: 114. Total member organizations: 14.

Recent Park Event Report

1. Park & Rec Weekend was a huge disappointment with the cancellation of the 5K run for the second year in a row. The city planned it very poorly and did not post it in time for people to register in advance, and they promoted it very poorly as well.
2. Butterfly Walk: It was *very* hot. We saw 10 species of butterflies, two new species.
3. Open Streets was a disaster with poorly placed and locked porta-potties, barricades that were poorly placed without signage. It was poorly marketed and poorly attended. However we had plenty of wonderful volunteers for our table.
4. Cody-Rouge Action Alliance gave a tour of the community on Aug. 29. Paula gave the tour of Rouge Park. A representative from National Faith Home Buyers was on the tour.
5. Tour de Troit was held on Sept. 15. It was a successful event with several volunteers from FORP to pass out snacks at the rest area south of Joy Rd. The city did a fair job of making the park look good for the event (mowing and trash pick-up) but still left some trash, a piece of furniture and poor mowing in places.

Old Business

1. Change of our meeting location: Sts. Peter & Paul Convent is not open yet and St. Suzanne's is not available in the evenings yet. Paula Trilety will look into when, or if, St. Suzanne's will become available in the evenings.
2. Wayne County Parks has a grant to develop a link between Rouge Park, Parkland Park and Hines Park. It may be a few years before it is completed.
3. On Aug. 7, 49 Amrock Employees worked on clearing out brush at the Sorensen House site. Work has not started yet on the Sorensen Interpretive Signage or the recreational area amenities. Brennan Rec Area work has not begun either. The planned ribbon cutting ceremony for Sorensen has been postponed.

New Business

1. We need to develop tours of Rouge Park.
2. We need to write a letter to the city complaining about the poor upkeep of the park.
3. We have four groups interested in volunteering in Rouge Park this Fall. Circle K (Nov 10) and RAI (Oct. 11) are coming for sure to work in the prairie and possibly Scout Hollow.
4. We need to encourage the city to get a contractor with a brush cutter to clear overgrown areas along the paved path and then keep them mowed and maintained.
5. Sally and Paula have been attending founding meetings of the Detroit Parks Conservancy. The conservancy would allow parks to go in together on grants and coordinate events and volunteer projects.

6. A greenways conference group is planning a bus tour along the Rouge River Greenway that will include Rouge Park. Sept. 24 1:30-4:30pm. Sally will narrate the tour of the park.

Scout Hollow Campground (Garret Dempsey)

This season Detroit ICO has trained 30 people in three training sessions and 180 youth have camped. They have flagged the hiking trail in the hollow and have worked some on the trails.

National Kidney Foundation Report (Sam Shopinski)

NKF has printed 5500 Rouge Park visitor guides. 2500 went to the Tour de Troit event, 500 to Parks & Rec and the rest are still available for distribution. Future funding for Rouge Park from NKF will decrease for the upcoming year, but not be eliminated. There is about a thousand dollars that could be spent on the park but the request for a shovel ready project needs to be made immediately.

Board meeting set for Sept. 24, 6:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.