

## Friends of Rouge Park - Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2019

Attendance (26 attendees): Chester Marvin (FOTR)-treasurer, Paul Stark-secretary, Sally Petrella-president, Paula Trilety-membership, Eric Tomlinson-Elite Archery, Tommy McKinney-elite Archery, Lorraine Harris-Corresponding secretary, Mark Bentley-Boy Scouts, Roger Corpolongo, trustee, Tom McNulty-trustee, Tim Kirsten-DAM, Garrett Dempsey-Sierra Club, Sarah West, Alan Van Kerckove, Peggy Dankert-trustee, Juliana Fulton-City of Detroit, Tamara Dyson, Rayshaun Landrum-City of Detroit, Doug & Cindy Ritz, LaDon Davis-Aide to Gabe Leland, Stephanie Wroblewski, Sam Shopinski-NKF, Marlene White, Jesus McNair, Representative Karen Whitsett

Minutes from November were read and accepted.

### **Treasurer's Report** for the period from Nov 20-Jan 15 (Chester Marvin)

We received \$20 in memberships and \$62.33 in donations (\$32.33 from Kroger Community Rewards). We received \$5,105.15 from Motor Cities National Heritage Area and \$9,600 from Sierra Club-Detroit outdoors. Total income: \$14,787.48. Expenses: \$5.00 State of Michigan change of address. Total expenses: \$5.00. Balance: \$17,498.90.

**Membership Report** for the period from Nov 20-Jan 15: (Paula Trilety): 6 members renewed, and 8 new members joined this month. Total members: 124. 16 organizations renewed, total organizations: 15.

### **President's Report**

- Sally recognized the newly elected board including two new trustees; Garrett Dempsey and Sam Shopinski.
- Our general membership meetings will be moved to 7:00pm so that the board can meet at 6:00pm starting in February.
- Part-time Project Manager position update. Interviews were conducted with two candidates on Jan. 15. A decision will be made at the next board meeting.
- MOU: We are developing a Memo of Understanding with the city for our organization.
- Save Hines Park is fighting to stop the county from selling parts of Hines Park.

### **Update from the City** (Rayshaun Landrum and Juliana Fulton)

#### A. Grants

- Sorensen Recreation Area Trust Fund grants: The city has received \$600,000 (a \$300,000 grant plus \$300,000 match) for amenities including a new pavilion, paved walking path, sports fields, a playground with bio-swales, picnic tables, 25 car parking area and a new park sign at Sawyer and Pierson. Construction could begin as early as this spring.
- Brennan Pool splash pad area - \$100,000 trust fund grant has been approved. A total of \$1.2 million could eventually be approved for the Brennan Recreation Area.
- City is applying for another trust fund grant for Joy-Spinoza. The re-grading has already begun there and should be done in the spring.

- B. Protected bike lanes on Spinoza with limited street parking: Juliana passed around map. Discussion followed on the need for bike racks as well and concerns about a coordinated plan for bike lanes throughout the park.

Karen Whitsett, the new Michigan House Rep. for the Rouge Park area introduced herself.

### **REPORTS:**

**Detroit Outdoors Program at Scout Hollow** (Garrett Dempsey): For 2018, they held four overnight leadership trainings and trained 46 adults. The goal is for next year is six trainings. They held 11 overnight camping trips involving 280 overnight campers. 228 youth participated in field trips to the Hollow. 459 youth participated in school programs. 309 youth participated in 15 outreach events. 131 adults and 75 youth participated in non school based stewardship projects.

**Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Center:** BSHA received \$150,000 for improvements to the barn including a new roof, fencing, etc.

**Detroit Parks Conservancy:** (Paula Trilety). They just received funding to hire a consultant to help develop a city-wide parks conservancy.

**2019 FORP Goals** - top ten priorities for 2019

- a. Close portion of the park to traffic on summer weekends. Advocate for permanent closure gates.
- b. Develop designated parking areas, no standing zones
- c. Signage: Dumping, Dog rules, No ATVs
- d. Bollards or boulders at Stone Bridge and Prairie, etc.
- e. Plow and level Prairie Pathway and add interpretive signage
- f. Official ribbon cutting for Prairie Pathway and Sorensen.
- g. Advocate for beginning the Perimeter Pathway on the east side of the park.
- h. Advocate for painting bicycle lanes on park roads.
- J. Complete Scout Hollow Nature Trail east of the river
- k. Permanent porta-potties at Cozy Corners, Tireman Trailheads, Sorensen and Lahser picnic area

We discussed tearing down Tireman Comfort station and rehabbing west district office.

**Upcoming Events**

- FORP Annual Mtg - March 26 Brennan Pools Banquet Room
- Rouge Park Appreciation Day/Rouge Rescue - May 18
- Scout Rendezvous Sept. 2019 is set. They just need to finalize the paperwork.