

Friends of Rouge Park - Meeting Minutes – June 18, 2019

Attendance (34 attendees): Jacqara Jackson, Project manager, Sally Petrella-president, Paula Trilety-membership, Tommy McKinney-Elite Archery, Paul Stark-secretary, Peggy Dankert, Garrett Dempsey-Trustee, Sarah West, Marty Bastien, Sri Sushnitha, Joe Foy-MCMBBA, Dustin Campbell-Aide to Alicia Bell, James Mills-Buffalo Soldiers, Jasmin DeForrest-Quicken Loans Comm. Fund, Sommer Woods-QLCF, Jesus McNair, Sam Shopinski-NKF, Tom McNulty-DAM, Tim Kirsten-DAM, Ryan Herbert-Greening of Detroit, Donulae Knuckles-Well-Able Walkers, Jacob Campbell, Theresa Williams-Piedmont Block Club, Deborah Elam-Piedmont Block Club, Carnell Jones--aide to Rep. Whitsett, Frederick Mackinder, Heather Koch, Roy Byczynski, Jennie Byczynski, Donna Hall, Roger Cheek, Joe Haskins, Angy Webb-Joy Community Assoc., Ali Sayed -HYPE

Minutes from May were read and accepted.

Treasurer's Report

Expenses: \$800 staff compensation, \$55 reimbursement and \$50 to W. Christian Academy. Total Expenses: \$905.00. Income: \$310.00 memberships, \$430.94 donations (\$247-Sam Sugarman, \$140-Kresge Foundation, \$43.94 Kroger Rewards). Total Income: \$740.94. Balance: \$11,799.96 (\$3200 in restricted funds, \$8599.96 unrestricted).

Membership Report for the period from May 21-June 18: (Paula Trilety): 9 members renewed, and 3 new members joined this month and 5 organization renewed. Total members: 110. Total organizations: 13.

President's Report

- **Community Picnic Table Build** planned for June 29, 10am-2pm at Joy & Artesian. Organized by the Detroit Planning & Development's Strategic Framework.
- **New Picnic Shelter.** Originally planned for Stein Park by GM, it will now be built at Joy & Spinoza. The city will hire contractors to build it.
- **GM Volunteer Days**, July 30-Aug.2. Volunteers will paint playground animals at Joy & Spinoza, cut back vegetation along the paved path, make trail improvements at Joe Prance and Scout Hollow.
- **Brennan Rec. Area Improvements.** 150 volunteers from the Detroit Pistons and City Year will be planting trees, striping parking lot, building picnic tables, painting picnic shelter and more on July 11.
- **Constance Project.** Jacqara and Sally are meeting with DWSD on June 20 about the Constance project.
- **Commissioner Alicia Bell is offering \$50,000 for Rouge Park.** She suggests either park signage, picnic table and grill replacement at Joy & Spinoza, a 4-table picnic shelter or a vault toilet at the Tireman & Outer Dr. trailhead area, a 4-table picnic shelter at the Sorensen Rec. Area, or a perimeter path connecting paved walking loops at Brennan Rec. Area and Cozy Corners.

Events in the Park (Jacqara Jackson)

1. Brennan Pools opened on June 15.
2. Ecological Lullaby event happened on June 15. Good turnout. Next event July 13, 8-10:30pm
3. Summer golf camp for ages 7-14 starts on June 25.
4. Upcoming events: Annual Butterfly Walk Aug. 4, 2pm, Detroit Audobon Bird Walk date to be set in September, Junior Ranger Angler, Aug. 12, 10:30-11:30, 1:00-3:00pm

(Aug. 10-11 camp training)

Hype Proposal for a recreation center in Rouge Park (Ali Sayed-HYPE)

HYPE hopes to develop a private/public partnership with the city of Detroit to build a \$140,000 sq. ft. recreation center in Rouge Park at Joy Rd. and Trinity St. They are pledging \$2 million toward the project. (\$12 million total). Amenities could include 6 basketball courts, 2 soccer fields, offices for community groups, a 10,000 sq ft banquet center, classrooms for adult education and tutoring, a library, etc. The membership cost for a family of four would be \$79/yr.

Update on the Detroit Outloud festival. (Jasmin DeForrest- Quicken Loans Community Fund)

QLCF is planning an event, Detroit Outloud, for July 20, 8am-6pm at the Lahser Rd. parking area. It will be a free family event with live music, a camping exhibit, archery lessons, yoga, pony rides, etc. A press release is going out June 20.

Update on Scout Hollow (Garrett Dempsey)

Three camping events and one leadership training have been completed so far this year. Too wet in the hollow, so they have been camping mostly by the horse barn. More leadership trainings are planned for June and August.

Greening of Detroit (Ryan)

Grants available to plant 100 trees in the Warrendale/Cody Rouge area

Looking for history of Myers Nursery

Update on MCMBA

20 yds. of soil and gravel have been placed along the trail near Joy Rd. They are adding signage along the trail.

Update on Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Association.

The roof has been completed.

Committees

Sally encouraged members to become more involved by joining a working committee. Committee chairs gave a brief overview of what each committee does.

Membership (Paula)

Programming (Jacqara)

Park Improvement (Sam)

Meeting adjourned 8:15pm.