

Friends of Rouge Park - Meeting Minutes – July 16, 2019

Attendance (29 attendees): Jacqara Jackson, project manager, Sally Petrella-president, Paula Trilety-membership, Paul Stark-secretary, Peggy Dankert, Roger Corpolongo-trustee, Sam Shopinski-NKF, trustee, Garrett Dempsey-Trustee, Sarah West, Marty Bastien, Jim Gallagher, Jesus McNair, Tom McNulty-DAM, Tim Kirsten-DAM, Frederick Mackinder, Heather Koch, Kathryn Underwood-Elite Archery, Eric Tomlinson-Elite Archery, Tamara Dyson, LaDon Davis-aide to Gabe Leland, Rayshaun Landrum-City of Detroit, Juliana Fulton-City of Detroit, Jordon Walker-City of Detroit, Al VanKerckove, Jim Westphal, Carnell Jones-aide to Rep. Whitsett, Reggie Gaddies-Weatherby BC, Mamie Dargin--Weatherby BC, Dave Mann

Minutes from June were read and accepted.

Treasurer's Report

No report. Prospective new treasurer had a family emergency and can not start until November.

Membership Report for the period from June 18-July 16: (Paula Trilety): 10 members renewed, and 7 new members joined this month and 1 organization renewed. Total members: 118. Total organizations: 13.

President's Report

- **The Community Picnic Table Build** was held on June 29, 10am-2pm at Joy & Artesian. Organized by the Detroit Planning & Development's Strategic Framework. Their next event will be held on Aug 24, 2-6pm (location to be announced, possibly the Brennan Pools building).
- **The Brennan Pools Roof** is now being repaired.
- **Constance Project Update.** Sally and Jacqara met with DWSD and TetraTech to discuss the Constance Project on June 19, 2:30pm. They are putting in a 10 ft. deep underground basin and an aboveground sloped area planted with native plants between Constance/Parkland and Outer Drive. At Majestic and Tireman they will build a new underground retention basin, and they will connect in to the Tireman bioswale by putting a pipe along Parkland between Tireman and Majestic. We suggested moving the pipe east to avoid having to remove the newly planted trees.
- **Pistons Programming in Rouge Park.** On July 11, the Pistons announced their plans for summer youth programming for the new basketball courts. They also re-painted parking lines, trimmed trees and built benches along with Quicken Loans and City Year volunteers.
- **HYPE center proposal.** Sally asked for feedback from the proposal presented at our last meeting. No one spoke in favor of the plan, and several spoke in opposition to the new recreation center being built in Rouge Park.
- **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.
- **The Boy Scouts** cancelled their Rendezvous event for September.

Events in the Park (Jacqara Jackson)

1. **GM Volunteer Days**, July 30-Aug.2. Volunteers will replace picnic tables at Joy & Spinoza, cut back vegetation along the paved path, and make trail improvements at Joe Prance and Scout Hollow.
2. **Americorps and CCC volunteers** are working with Detroit Outdoors on Scout Hollow Nature Trails.
3. **Ecological Lullaby** event happened July 13.
4. **Detroit Outloud.** Volunteers are needed to be at our information table from 8am-2pm.
5. **Upcoming events:** Annual Butterfly Walk Aug. 4, 2pm,

City of Detroit Update on Park Improvements (Juliana Fulton and Rayshaun Landrum)

Alisha Bell's \$50,000 could be spent on the archery range, and if the funds are not all spent, funds could be spent on the perimeter path project as well. The majority of members present preferred the Archery Range improvements as the first priority. The contractor has been chosen for the Sorensen Recreation Area development. They will need to negotiate with DWSD who is currently doing work in the area. The development will include ball fields, a picnic shelter, playground and walking path. Tennis/Pickleball courts will be rebuilt in Brennan Rec. Area.

Next spring the picnic shelter donated by GM will be built at Cozy Corners. The new sports fields should be completed by this fall.

Detroit Outdoors Update (Garrett Dempsey)

Detroit Outdoors developed a partnership with Keep Growing Detroit to do a Wilderness Medicine Training program. Five or six groups have camped so far this year. Two groups are camping this week. Six to nine more groups are planned. One more leadership training is planned and will be held in August.

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 8:00pm.