

Friends of Rouge Park - Meeting Minutes – September 17, 2019

Attendance (24 attendees): **Sally Petrella-president, Paula Trilety-membership, Paul Stark-secretary, Peggy Dankert-trustee, Roger Corpolongo-trustee, Tamara Dyson-treasurer**, Sarah West, Marty Bastien, Jim Gallagher, Jesus McNair, Tom McNulty-DAM, Tim Kirsten-DAM, Heather Koch, Eric Tomlinson-Elite Archery, LaDon Davis-aide to Gabe Leland, Kathryn Underwood-City Planning Commission, Jim Westphal, Barb Matney-WCO, Joe Matney-WCO, Joe Haskins-FWCA, Alec Findlay-aide to Rep. Whitsett, Elroy Reese-BSHA, James Mills-BSHA, Roger Cheek

Minutes from July were read and accepted.

Treasurer's Report

No report. New treasurer appointed today: Tamara Dyson.

Membership Report for the period from July 16- Sept 17: (Paula Trilety): 3 members renewed, and 6 new members joined this month and 2 new organizations joined (Pistons and Quicken Loans), 1 organization renewed. Total members: 118. Total organizations: 15.

President's Report

- Tamara Dyson has been appointed as our new treasurer.
- \$500 donation from Wechsler Foundation.
- The Project Manager position has ended. The grant money ran out.
- GM volunteers built new picnic tables for Cozy Corners, cleared overgrowth around a few benches and paved trails. They also worked on the Joe Prance and Scout Hollow nature trails.
- Constance Project Update. Sally, Arthur, Lorraine and Peggy will meet next week with DWSD to discuss the Constance Project. DWSD will present their plan at our October general meeting.
- The Strategic Framework gave a presentation to the community on Aug. 24. Hector Consultants are meeting with park user groups to interview them and take photographs. They met with BSHA and Elite Archery so far.
- Approx. 200 people attended the "Everything Horses" event at BSHA on Aug. 24.
- The Detroit Outloud event was very successful, though it was very hot. We received \$5,000 from Quicken Loans to host volunteer projects in the park from Aug. 19, 2019-July 18, 2020. They also gave \$20,000 to the city to be spent in Rouge Park.

Reports

- City of Detroit (no report from Juliana and Rayshaun). Alicia Bell's park funds are being spent for improvements to the Archery Range.
- Detroit Outdoors (no report from Garrett). They finished the first leg of the Scout Hollow trail from the entrance steps to the Spinoza Bridge. A tree fell on the new trail bridge, but it has been repaired.
- National Get Outdoors Day. 10-noon, Sat. Sept. 28. Detroit Outdoors is sponsoring a hike on the Scout Hollow Trail.
- Greening of Detroit received a grant to do a tree planting on Nov. 2. 9-11am. We need to supply 20 volunteers.
- Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Association. The new roof is completed. They are also getting a new sliding door for the barn. They would like to expand their pasture area into the former canine unit training area.
- Elite Archery. Improvements to the Archery Range include an overhead shelter for shooters and a 4-inch deep concrete pad to shoot from, and new upgraded targets. They are meeting on Sept. 18 to firm up the plans.

Upcoming Events in the Park

1. D-Town Farm Harvest Fest Sept. 21 & 22, Noon-6pm
2. On Oct. 4, 60 volunteers from RAI Corporation will meet at Stone Bridge Nature trailhead and remove invasives along the paved path on Outer Drive.
3. On Nov. 2, Greening of Detroit will do a tree planting in the Trinity/West Chicago area.

Announcements

LaDon Davis - City Council Meeting District 7 meeting on Sept. 24, 7pm at the Third New Hope Church annual at Barb Matney - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new Minock-Whitlock Park, 6548 Minock, Oct. 26 at 2:00pm.
Sally Petrella - 50 year anniversary of the October 9, 1968 fire on the Rouge River celebration on October 10

Meeting adjourned 7:50pm.