

Friends of Rouge Park - Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2020

Attendance (31 attendees): **Sally Petrella-president, Paul Stark-secretary, Paula Trilety-membership chair, Roger Corpolongo-trustee, Garrett Dempsey-Trustee,**

Tom McNulty-DAM, Tim Kirsten-DAM, Ashley Boehle-Intern, Eric Tomlinson-Elite Archery, Hannah Slabaugh- OHM/DWSD, Patrick Drozo- OHM/DWSD, Sarah Stoolmiller-DWSD, Eileen Iannone, Sarah West, Heather Koch, Jim Westphal, Frederick MacKinder, Rayshaun Landrum-City of Detroit, Jeff Klien- City of Detroit, Joe Haskins, Jason Haskins, Lisa Wallick-DWSD, Bryan Peckinpaugh-DWSD, Greg Kacvinsky-OHM/DWSD, Barb Matney-WCO, Joe Matney-WCO, Barry Brown-DWSD, Jacqara Jackson- City of Detroit, Eric Fowlkes-Dept. of Neighborhoods, Katie Kowalski-HCMP, Tyler Mitchell-HCMP

Board Absent: Tamara Dyson-Treasurer, Peggy Dankert-trustee, Arthur Edge-vice president, Lorraine Harris-corresponding secretary, Sam Shopinski-trustee

Minutes from November were read and accepted. (Tom moved, Roger seconded)

Treasurer's Report for Dec. 2019 (No Report).

Membership Report for Dec. 2019 (Paula Trilety): 2 members renewed. Total members: 113. Total organizations: 20.

President's Report

- Ashley Boehle has started as our new intern working on natural area management and organizing volunteer work days in the park.
- Huron-Clinton Metroparks (Katie Kowalski and Tyler Mitchell) spoke briefly about their plans to work in Rouge Park. They have developed a MOU with the city of Detroit to focus on the prairie. They are developing a plan to clear non-native invasive plants, organize volunteer work days, possibly plan burns and assist with finding more funding for natural areas management. Now they are in the planning stage and developing a work plan and management plan for the next three years.
- March 24 Annual Dinner meeting will include elections for Board of Directors. Sally asked for volunteers to form a nominating committee.
- The historical committee is meeting with the City Archivist on January 29.

DWSD gave a presentation on the Green Infrastructure Projects in Rouge Park

Reports

- **City Update** (Jeff Klein and Rayshaun Landrum): The improvements in the Brennan Rec. Area should begin in spring and be completed by the summer. The old playground there was demolished. Cozy Corners Re. Area soccer fields should be completed by Spring and the parking lot and bathroom should be completed this year. The concrete pad for the GM Picnic Shelter won't be built until 2021. The city is looking into building a gravel lot for the nature trail hub. The design for the archery range is being developed and should be completed this year. The Sorensen Rec. Area project is under way and should be done in the spring. The City is offering to work with us on trail maintenance and development. Derric Dykas will meet with a group on Jan. 24 to explore trail extensions and development.
- **Archery Range Update:** Elite Archery is waiting for the city to develop a design for the archery range.
- **Detroit Outdoors.** (Garrett Dempsey) Detroit Outdoors is working with a NWF cultural exchange program with indigenous youth from the upper great lakes and Detroit high schools students. They are planning on having youth tapping maple trees for syrup in late February on the Stone Bridge Trail.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.