

Friends of Rouge Park - Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2020

Attendance (16 attendees): **Sally Petrella-president, Paul Stark-secretary, Paula Trilety-membership chair, Roger Corpolongo-trustee,** Ashley Boehle-Intern, Barb Matney-WCO, Joe Matney-WCO, Heather Koch, Jim Westphal, Frederick MacKinder, Bruce Simpson-Detroit City Ombudsman, William Davis-Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, Rita Davis-Franklin Park, Arnold Call, Alan VanKerckove, Jesus McNair

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

The City Ombudsman, Bruce Simpson, introduced himself and gave a brief overview of the functions of the Ombudsman's office. He mentioned that DTE will start working in Rouge Park to do training for pole workers and tree trimmers.

Minutes from January were read and accepted. (Paula moved, Roger seconded)

Treasurer's Report for Jan. 2020: expenses: \$85.91, income: \$2,574.36 (\$2,500 donation from GM Cares), balance: \$16,929.47.

Membership Report for Jan. 2020 (by Paula Trilety): 6 members renewed. Total members: 114. Total organizations: 20. Added new membership levels: Supporting-\$25, Sustaining-\$50, Pathfinder-\$100, Trail Blazer-\$250 and River Wanderer-\$500.

President's Report

- Wednesday, Feb. 12 through Sunday, Feb. 16, Detroit Outdoors, working with a NWF cultural exchange youth program began tapping maple trees for syrup along the Stone Bridge Trail.
- Feb. 17, Sally, Ashley, Roger and Paul gave Jen Fiandt of REI a tour of the park and discussed ideas for REI to become involved in developing infrastructure and programming in the park. Between \$2500-\$8000 will be available as a grant.
- Our intern, Ashley Boehle, has been developing a list of potential volunteer work sites in the park. She will be taking the pesticide test tomorrow. She is working on putting our nature trails online on different hiking web sites and apps.
- Our Kresge KIP-D grant draft proposal has been accepted and we have been invited to submit a full grant proposal for \$35,000. It is due in March.
- Designated Parking Proposal. The county has communicated with the city, expressing that they approve the creation of designated parking areas on the county roads in the park but are not willing to purchase or install the signage. They are asking the city to do so.
- We are speaking with the city about the possibility of using the Nursery building and/or Mill building for our FORP office and perhaps storage for Scout Hollow camping equipment. The Winter Sports Area comfort station has been boarded up.
- March 24 Annual Dinner meeting will include elections for our Board of Directors.
- The historical committee met with the city archivist, Andrea Gallucci on January 29. History Committee members are planning a public event to invite people to bring photos and other information on the history of Rouge Park. Members are also visiting local museums, libraries and combing through Newspapers.com articles for historical information on Rouge Park.
- April 25, 9:30am Earth Day Clean-up at BSHA.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.