

Friends of Rouge Park - Meeting Minutes – May 19, 2020

Attendance (21 attendees): **Sally Petrella-president, Paul Stark-secretary, Paula Triley-membership chair, Roger Corpolongo-trustee, Sam Shopinski-trustee, Garrett Dempsey-Trustee, Peggy Dankert-trustee**, Jim Westphal, Djenaba Ali, Patrick Droze (DWSD), Eric Fowlkes (Dept. of Neighborhoods), Juliana Fulton (Parks & Rec.), Donna Hall, Lisa Harris, Rayshaun Landrum (Parks & Rec.), Dave Mann, Bernard Parker (Wayne County Commissioners Office), Eric Tomlinson (Elite Archery), Kathryn Underwood, Michelle White, Sarah West (WODCA)
Board Absent: Tamara Dyson-Treasurer, Arthur Edge-vice president, Lorraine Harris-corresponding secretary

Minutes from February were read and accepted. (No meeting March or April) (Paula moved, Roger seconded).

Treasurer's Report for Apr. 2020. Total income: \$585.00. Total expenses: \$1253.89. Balance: \$14,945.50

Membership Report for Apr. 2020 (Paula Triley): 3 new members and 3 renewals. Total members: 119 and 20 Organizations. Memberships that have expired have not been removed from our list due to the difficulty of renewing in person since the pandemic began.

President's Report

- Covid Update: We cancelled all of our spring events in the park. We suspended our intern, hoping to bring her back to complete her internship when conditions are safe.
- The Detroit Parks Coalition (with FORP) has worked with the city to put caution tape around the playgrounds. We urged the city to resume mowing grass and emptying garbage cans.
- Board Elections: The board decided to postpone the election until we can hold an annual meeting. All board members agreed to remain in their current positions

City Update (Juliana Fulton and Rayshaun Landrum)

The city has a \$500 million deficit due to the pandemic. Andrea Galluci, city archivist, was laid off. Many park staff have been pulled for other duties. The Rouge Park projects already underway will continue. The new parking lot, picnic shelter & bathroom at Cozy Corners have been postponed until spring 2021, but the ball fields will be completed this year. The walking loop was not funded. Juliana shared the new city "Park Usage Do's and Don'ts for Covid-19". The splash pad will not be open this year, but they are constructing it. The horseshoe court renovation has been completed. The rest of the development plans will go forward in the Brennan and Sorensen recreation areas. The Archery Range improvements have been put out for bid. The cost of the concrete pad for the picnic shelter (30' x 70') is about \$35,000.

Ideas for new programming during the pandemic. Some ideas discussed included a walking club, aerobics for seniors and scavenger hunts. Sally asked for people to email her more ideas.

REI grant. REI is giving Metroparks an \$8,000 grant for improvements in the Prairie.

KIP-D grant. Our KIP-D grant proposal for \$35,000 will be submitted soon.

ORV problem. The board approved \$331.61 for trailhead signage. We are in the process of purchasing posts and signs for the nature trails. Paula recommended that we schedule a meeting with the police to enforce the ORV rules.

Master Plan. Eileen is working on a draft to submit with the KIP-D grant.

History Committee. The committee has been working hard combing through Newspapers.com for references to Rouge Park in Michigan newspapers from 1919-present. They have made it through 1919 to the mid-1950s so far.

DWSD Update (Patrick Droze) A community meeting is planned for May 28 for the residents of the FWCA and FORP.

Detroit Outdoors: They have cancelled all trainings and camping programs for the summer. No decisions have been made for beyond the summer yet.

Archery Range: ORV damage is extensive in the range making it difficult to mow.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.