

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

Attendance (16 attendees): **Sally Petrella-president, Paul Stark-secretary, Lorraine Harris-corresponding secretary, Peggy Dankert-trustee, Garrett Dempsey-Trustee, Paula Trilety-membership chair, Sam Shopinski-trustee, Arthur Edge-vice president**

Eric Tomlinson-Elite Archery, Al Van Kerckhove, Officer Morgan Pistolesi, Kathryn Underwood-Elite Archery, Roy Byczynski, Bernard Parker III (representing Alicia Bell), Eileen Iannone, Sgt. William O'Brien

Board Absent: Tamara Dyson-Treasurer

Minutes from June were read and accepted. (Garrett moved, Paula seconded).

Treasurer's report for June 2020 (Tamara Dyson). Beginning balance: \$14,659.13. Total expenses (trailhead signage): \$166.91. Total revenues: \$248.28. Ending balance: \$14,750.50.

Membership report for June 2020 (Paula Trilety): We had no new members, one renewal and two organization member renewals. We have a total of 128 members total and 20 organizations.

Updates on the Park:

- **Sorensen Rec. Area:** Sally shared photos of the new paved walking trail, playground, ball fields and picnic shelter at Sorensen Recreation Area. The city says it will be done by the end of the week.
- **Cozy Corner Rec. Area:** The ballfields have been smoothed and sodded with an irrigation system and should be complete by the end of the week.
- **Brennan Area:** The city will start on the splash pad, tennis and pickleball courts, playground and picnic areas by next month.
- **Archery Range:** Archery classes have begun. The county funded improvements have not begun. The city needs to accept the county grant before they can begin. DWSD fixing the drainage issues in the archery range.
- **Huron-Clinton Metroparks grant activities:** The REI grant for \$10,500 will pay for a bench and trash can at the Prairie Pathway trailhead, and a peace pole at Sorensen Rec. Area, and a wayfinding signage plan for nature trails.
- **Nature Trails:** temporary bollards have been placed at the Stone Bridge Nature Trail. We are still waiting for the interpretive signs to be replaced by Spectrum Signs on the trail and the Butterfly Garden.
- **Off Road Vehicles:** Call 911 to report ORVs and text Officer Morgan at 313-590-9344 with time/descriptions of the ORVs, also report vice issues.
- **DWSD Drainage Ditch Plans for the Park:** We sent a letter to DWSD opposing the project in its current design. We have had two meetings with the city, and they support our concerns.
- **Park activities:** We decided not to hold a bike ride in the park because of concerns over enforcing Covid regulations. We will postpone it until we are confident we can hold it safely. We are holding our Aug. 2 butterfly walk as a virtual event. Sally, Paul and Doris videoed a walk in the prairie identifying butterflies today.

Committee and Organizational Reports:

- **History Committee:** Jim Westphal graciously volunteered to pay for six more months of Newspapers.com to continue research on the park from 1955-present.
- **Master Plan Committee:** A first rough was draft completed for the KIP-D grant and work is continuing.
- **New Volunteer:** Eric Kehoe is volunteering 10 hours per month to help us with mapping and historical research.
- **Detroit Outdoors:** All social activities have been cancelled. They are planning once a month online gatherings to discuss sugar bushing in Rouge Park and other topics.
- **Elite Archery:** Classes are being held on weekends, practicing social distancing 10 yards apart from each other.

New Business

- Erosion of the West Chicago roadway over the Ashcroft drain. Bernard Parker recommended calling the Wayne County Road Crew number (1-888-roadcrew) to report the problem and get a service request number, and then forwarding it to him so he can follow up.
- Complaints were aired about a stop sign being ignored at West Parkway St. and Meadow Park St. and drag racing in the park: O'Brien (313-549-7637) asked for people to report dates and times to facilitate enforcement.
- Complaints were aired about the lack or regular mowing in the park. Sally will contact Chris Romeo.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31pm.