

Friends of Rouge Park
Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2015

Attendance (18 attendees):

Roger Corpolongo, Chester Marvin (FOTR)-treasurer, Roger Cheek-trustee, Tom McNulty-membership chair, Sally Petrella-president, Paul Stark-secretary, Tamara Dyson, Julianna Fulton-DRD, Alan Van Kerckhove, Tim Kirsten, Arthur Edge-vice president, Lorraine Harris, Lisa Goldsmith, Dan Graustein, Donna Hall, LaDon Davis, Dustin Campbell-Alisha Bell's aide, T.Ramsey-Americorps

Minutes from June were read and accepted.

Road Collapse over the Ashcroft Drain. It has still not be determined whether Detroit or Wayne County is responsible to repair West Parkway.

Treasurer's Report: (Chester Marvin) Fiscal year ended June 30. Our final balance for the fiscal year was \$2023.51. We received four family membership renewals for \$35 and two organizational renewals for \$100. Total income: \$135. Expense: \$20 for our annual incorporation papers. Sally filed our annual e-postcard to maintain our 501c3 status. Our current balance is \$2103.51. The check from the clean-up grant has not arrived. We never received the \$200 from Alicia Bell for RPAD.

Membership Report: (Tom McNulty) 32 individual and family memberships and six organizational memberships.

President's Report: Sally spoke with members of the Detroit Land Bank Authority. They are looking into adding the land with the abandoned apartments near Tireman Rd. to Rouge Park

Tireman Swale Planting Plan Update ó Anne Thomas (Tetrattech/DWSD)

The Tireman swale project is to begin along the residences on Tireman in September 2015. Maintenance has been increased to three full years after completion. Construction of the swale in the park will not begin until Spring 2016. The Constance Project also has been delayed until Spring 2016.

Update from Detroit Recreation Dept./General Services (Julianna Fulton)

Contract work for the Brennan Recreation Area has not gone out for bid yet, though the time frame for the work is still the same; the work should begin by October and be completed by the beginning of next summer.

Detroit Parks Coalition

WDET developed a program for collecting information on Detroit Parks. Unfortunately, their survey question focus more on the negatives instead of the positives of park use.

Student Conservation Association Work Project

Three groups are all working on the Stone Bridge Nature Trail. So far the students have been laying woodchips on the trail with log borders and have built a bench. They are working four days a week, six hours a day. A fourth group is working on removing invasive species. They are working on removing buckthorn along the nature trail.

ELCA youth volunteers worked in Rouge Park in July. They filled 23 bags of spotted knapweed from the west edge of the prairie. They painted fences and trimmed bushes at the BSHA barn.

Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Association:

The City removed large bushes from the barn. Vista Maria youth volunteers are coming to help paint the barn on July 22.

Butterfly Walk

The city mowed an area sufficient for the Butterfly Walk but did not mow the entire Prairie Pathway. It was 90 degrees for the walk. We identified 10 species of butterfly. 21 people attended.

New Business

Keen Grant Proposal: Julianna Fulton proposed applying for funding for materials for the Stone Bridge Trail and Prairie

Pathway. She asked the group for projected number of users, and projected uses of the nature trail. We discussed many potential uses, focusing primarily on nature education for school groups. We proposed developing educational graphics explaining the river floodplain and prairie ecosystems along with a suggested curriculum. Julianna asked for letters of support from FORP and the neighborhood organizations.

Master Plan Update: We are still working to set up a meeting with GSD and DRD on the Rouge Park Master Plan

Other Issues

1. Al Van Kerckhove reported construction debris dumped at SW corner of Outer Dr. and Tireman.

Meeting adjourned 7:00pm