

Friends of Rouge Park
Meeting Minutes - Sept. 15, 2015

Attendance (19 attendees):

Roxie Wilson, Marty Bastien, Keywana McCadney, Paula Trilety-trustee, Joyell Lewis-Gabe Leland aide, Norman Cox-Detroit Greenway Collaborative, Donulae Knuckles-Copeland, Roger Corpolongo, Chester Marvin (FOTR)-treasurer, Roger Cheek-trustee, Sally Petrella-president, Paul Stark-secretary, Julianna Fulton-DRD, Mike Jacobs-DRD, Alan Van Kerckhove, Lisa Goldsmith-BSHA, Alycia Chuney-SCA, Ashley Gomillion-SCA, Peggy Dankert,

Minutes from July were read and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: (Chester Marvin) Income: Kroger Community Awards check for \$100.12. \$25 Donation, one organization and two individual memberships. Total income: \$190.12. No expenses. Balance: \$2293.63.

Membership Report: (Tom McNulty) 28 individual and family memberships and four organizational memberships.

President's Report

1. The WDET Bus tour of several city parks was held on Sept. 12. Sally led the tour in Rouge Park. They stopped at the Stone Bridge Nature Trail, AeroModelers field, Buffalo Soldiers and the Brennan Pools. The organizers were so impressed with the park, they'd like to do another tour focusing only on Rouge Park.
2. The Tireman Apartments sold at auction for \$500. We could have purchased it and donated it to the park if we had known of the auction.
3. The LTU Master Plan booklet is complete and we received one copy. (passed around).
4. A Forestry grant is available for labeling trees on the nature trail.
5. The deer crossing signs we requested were put up, but none in the park. All were placed on Parkland St. No one knows how that happened.
6. D-Town Farm and DTE are collaborating on solar array at the farm.

Buffalo Soldiers Report

They had a busy summer with a lot of volunteers helping with painting, repairs, landscaping and caring for the horses. One horse died, so a total of six horses let. A BSHA article appeared in BLAC magazine. They have their 501c3 complete and FORP's responsibility as their fiduciary has officially ending.

Student Conservation Association Work Project

Four groups worked in Rouge Park this summer. Two groups built the Stone Bridge Nature Trail. One group worked on the Mountain Bike Trail, and one group removed non-native invasive buckthorn from the nature trail. They will be back next year!

Rouge Park Walking Club (Donulae Knuckles-Copeland of the Walk your Heart to Health+program). They walk from 7:00-8:30pm on Mon, Tues & Thurs in Rouge Park at the Mile Loop at the Brennan Recreation Area. They meet at the Driving Range. They began on July 13.

Tireman Swale Planting Plan Update

The Tireman swale project is to begin with digging along the homes in September 2015. Maintenance by DWSD has been increased to three years. Work on the swale in the park will not begin until Spring 2016. The Constance Project has also been delayed until Spring 2016.

Update from Detroit Recreation Dept./General Services (Juliana Fulton and Mike Jacobs)

The city is working on applying for the \$10,000 Keen Grant for the Stone Bridge Nature Trail area. Improvements will include a new pavilion, information kiosk, porta-potty, wetland viewing platform and signage for the Stone Bridge Trail and the Prairie Pathway. The Brennan Recreation Area project has not gone out to bid yet, but should in October. Construction should begin in the Spring and continue for five months. The city is interested in promoting Rouge Park for 5K races.

Detroit Greenway Collaborative (Norman Cox)

The National Kidney Foundation and other organizations interested in promoting health want to promote exercise in Rouge Park. They want to promote programming (i.e. 5k races, bike rallies, walking and running clubs, etc.) and may help provide funding for walking paths, signage, and other improvements.

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

Meeting adjourned 7:20pm