

Friends of Rouge Park - Meeting Minutes . June 21 2016

Attendance (19 attendees): Donulae Knuckles-Copeland (Well-Able Walkers), Roger Corpalongo-trustee, Sally Petrella-president, Paul Stark-secretary, Paula Trilety-trustee, Tom McNulty-trustee, Tim Kirsten, Sam Shopinski (National Kidney Foundation), Alan Van Kerckove, Peggy Dankert, Julianna Fulton (Recreation Dept.), Michael Williams (Recreation Dept.), Roger Cheek, Tamara Dyson, Kenyetta Stanford Jones, Tijuana Morris, Crystal Estell-Clayton (Well-Able Walkers), Lisa Goldsmith (BSHA), Carlos Topp (CRCAA)

Brennan Pools opening delayed from June 20 to June 27. No decision on permission for SCA using the Pool building this summer.

Minutes from May were read and accepted

Treasurer's Report: (No report)

Membership Report: (Roger Cheek) An estimated 2 Individual/family memberships, one organizational memberships received since last month.

President's report

1. Mayor Duggan accepted an invitation from our board for a tour of Rouge Park on July 20, 4pm. Paul will condense the Master Plan into a format to share with the mayor.
2. Pocket Park meeting: Quicken Loans is offering to finance a pocket park somewhere in the Cody/Rouge area. Sally presented an overview of the need for park amenities in Rouge Park.
3. Greening of Detroit has submitted a grant to plant trees west of the paved trail in the Sorenson Recreation Area.

Presentation of the City Parks & Recreation 10 year Improvement Plan (Juliana Fulton)

Julianna distributed a fact sheet on the plan. Rouge Park was ranked third in overall need for park amenities by residents. Rouge Park represents 24% of the park land in Detroit but is slated to receive only 4% of the improvement plan funds. There will be a link on the city web site for public input. Later, there will office hours for the public to provide feedback on the plan. A new Park Development Unit has been formed within General Services. It will be in charge of maintaining park amenities (picnic structures, playgrounds, ball fields, etc.) and will be funded separately. Swim lessons are coming to Brennan Pools. Paul will write a letter asking for a greater percentage of the funding.

Old Business

1. Rouge Park Appreciation Day: 200 volunteers filled 102 bags of garbage (55 bags north of Plymouth), 6 tires, a TV, vacuum cleaner, etc. and 103 bags of garlic mustard and 36 cu. yds. of honeysuckle. Twenty people camped in Scout Hollow and about 15 attended the star watching party (sponsored by Civilla) on the sledding hill with a high powered telescope able to detect the four moons of Jupiter.
2. Stone Bridge Nature Trail Update and SCA Update: Paintballers are staying out of the park since the police have kicked them out.
3. National Kidney Foundation Update: (Sam Shopinski): 200 Rouge Park brochures have been printed and a few hundred more are coming. Rouge-a-thon has been postponed until 2017. The Sept. Tour de Troit route change to include Rouge Park has been postponed until 2017.
4. Update on the City's Stay Fit for Health Walk/Run July 23: Sam brought registration brochures to share. July 22 will feature a movie and splash party at Brennan Pools.
5. Upcoming Park Events:
 - A. Brennan Pools open June 27,
 - B. Well-Able Walkers meet M, T & Th 6:30-8:00pm
 - C. SCA students work in Rouge Park July 5 - Aug. 12
 - D. Stay Fit for Health Run/Walk July 23
 - E. Botanical Club walk at Stone Bridge Nature Trail Aug. 13
 - F. Stone Bridge Nature Trail Opening Ceremony Sept. 9

Meeting adjourned 7:30pm