

Friends of Rouge Park - Meeting Minutes – February 28, 2017

Attendance (32 attendees): Paul Stark-secretary, Sally Petrella-president, Tamara Dyson, Arthur Edge-vice president, Tim Kirsten, Donulae Knuckles-Copeland, Chester Marvin (FOTR)-treasurer, Paula Trilety-trustee, Barb Matney and Joe Matney (WCO), Tom McNulty, Donna Hall, Eric Tomlinson (Elite Archery), Lynn Hausch (WACO), Marty Bastien, Sarah West, Carole Cook, Stephen Cook, Larry Halbert, Bridget Taylor, Sam Shopinski (NKF), Mike Jacobs (Det. Rec. Dept.), Reba Neely, Lisa Goldsmith, Kat Bounds (Det. Rec. Dept.), Joe Kuhn-Sedlar (Franklin Park C.O.), Donna Miller (Det. Rec. Dept.), Peggy Ball, Matthew Ball, Dee Pearl, R. Jesus McNair, Leonard Weber (Detroit Audabon)

Minutes from January were read and accepted

Treasurer's Report: (Chester Marvin)

For the period from Jan 17 to Feb. 28: \$203.25 in memberships. \$5.96 from Amazon Smile. Total income: \$203.25. Expenses: \$0.00. Balance: \$5195.76

Membership Report:

25 family, 12 individual and 14 organization memberships.

President's Report

1. Great Blue Herons and a pair of Great Horned Owls have returned to the rookery. A hooded merganser was seen in the Lahser wetland.
2. Animal Control has removed some, not all, feral pitpulls from the park. City Council is changing their ordinance to improve the ability of the city to control feral dogs.

1. Picnic Shelter Design The city met with FORP and Coverworx to create two designs for new picnic shelters in Rouge Park. One design is 40' x 60' at around \$130,000. The second design is 24' x 36' at around \$55,000. A motion was passed to present these designs to State Rep. Sylvia Santana along with the cost of picnic tables and trash cans at each shelter. She requested this information in order to assist us in getting funding for them.

2. City Recreation Dept. Update (Mike Jacobs & Donna Miller)

The city is applying for grants for three locations in Rouge Park: First, a \$75,000 grant (with a \$100,000 match from the city) for new picnic tables for Cozy Corners. Second, a \$300,000 grant (with a \$100,000 match from the city) for a Splash Pad at Brennan Pools. And third, a 300,000 grant (with a \$250,000 match from the city) for a playground, picnic shelter and soccer field and/or basketball courts at the Sorenson Recreation Area. A motion passed in support of all three developments.

3. Tour deTroit Rouge-a-thlon Update (Sam Shopinsky)

The event is planned for April 22. They need a minimum of 250 to register in order to hold the event. Some of proceeds will go to Rouge Park.

4. Scout Hollow Update. We will host a camp-out the night of RPAD in Scout Hollow with a bird walk hosted by the Detroit Audabon Society the following morning. An REI grant may be available for trails and camping improvements in Scout Hollow.

5. Rouge Park Appreciation Day will be on May 20. Gabe Leland will donate the large tent.

6. The Rouge Park 5K Run is scheduled for July 22. A Splash Party & Movie in the Park will be held on July 21, and a Jazz & Yoga event will be held on July 23.

7. Prairie Pathway Improvement. Sally met with Joe Kuhn-Sedlar from Franklin Park who has offered to till the Prairie Pathway to level it out.

Meeting adjourned 7:40pm