

Friends of Rouge Park - Meeting Minutes – October 15, 2019

Attendance (18 attendees):

Sally Petrella-president, Paula Trilety-membership, Paul Stark-secretary, Roger Corpolongo-trustee, Garrett Dempsey-Trustee, Marty Bastien, Jim Gallagher, Jesus McNair, Tom McNulty-DAM, Heather Koch, Eric Tomlinson-Elite Archery, Kathryn Underwood-City Planning Commission, Jim Westphal, Elroy Reese-BSHA, Kevin Murphy, Jacqara Jackson, JaVaughn Perkins, Dustin Campbell-AIDE TO Comm. Alisha Bell
Board Absent: **Peggy Dankert-trustee, Tamara Dyson-treasurer, Arthur Edge-vice president, Lorraine Harris-corresponding secretary, Sam Shopinski-trustee (excused)**

Minutes from September were read and accepted. (Roger moved, Paula seconded, passed.)

Treasurer's Report (Tamara Dyson).

Membership Report for Sept 2019 (Paula Trilety): 0 members renewed, and 0 new members joined this month and 0 new organizations joined, 1 organization renewed. Total members: 116. Total organizations: 16.

President's Report

- On Oct. 4, 50 RAI volunteers worked on removing invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle from along the paved path on Outer Drive between Warren and Tireman.
- Quicken Loans \$5000 donation: We are planning to use the funds to recruit interns to organize volunteer work days in the park and to purchase tools. We are looking into getting use of one of the unused buildings in the park north of the Barn to store our tools.
- Construction of the GM funded picnic shelter should begin in April 2020 on the NE corner of Joy & Spinoza.
- DWSD Project Update. DWSD cancelled the scheduled meeting with us to discuss up-coming projects in the park and have not yet rescheduled the meeting.
- The Strategic Framework: Last public meeting on Nov. 13, 5:30-8 pm Boys and Girls Club at 16300 Tireman. FORP will have a table there.
- The dangerous hole and clogged drains in the archery range have not yet been repaired.
- Detroit Parks Coalition. They are working on a plan for all the member parks to work more closely together (i.e. pooling together for lower insurance costs, coordinating picnic shelter plans, etc.).
- Designated Parking. Paul is still working on getting a meeting with the County.
- The monthly membership meeting has been changed to 6:30pm by a vote of the membership.

Reports

- City of Detroit (Juliana and Rayshaun not present). Brennan Rec. Area improvements should begin this fall. Sorensen Rec. Area improvements should be completed this fall. They have laid out the paved path and have started some grading projects. The Golf Course has an RFP out for a 5 yr.contract to operate the course. Sally was asked by the city to help review the applications. Tom M. and Garrett D.offered to help.
- Detroit Outdoors (Garrett Dempsey). They hosted a hike on Public Lands Day, Sept. 28. Another tree fell on the new bridge.
- Greening of Detroit will do a tree planting on Nov. 2. 9-11am. We have 20+ volunteers signed up.
- Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Association. They are working on getting permission from the city to use the former canine training area for their horses. They are also interested in establishing a bridle trail in Rouge Park. They would like 2-5 miles in an upland area.
- Elite Archery: Rayshaun Landrum is working on the design for the improvements to the archery range funded by Commissioner Bell.
- Lahser Marsh benches, built by Kevin Murphy, have been added to the waterfront viewing area.
- Alisha Bell has offered to attend our next meeting.

Board Elections: All of the board members asked so far have agreed to remain in their positions.

Upcoming Events in the Park

1. Oct. 31, 5-8pm. Halloween in the D Haunted Locker Room in Brennan Pools building.
2. Nov. 2, 9-11am. Greening of Detroit will do a tree planting in the Trinity/West Chicago/Spinoza area.
3. Nov. 13, 6-8pm Cody-Rouge/Warrendale Neighborhood Framework Community meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:15pm.