

## Friends of Rouge Park - Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2019

Attendance (25 attendees):

**Sally Petrella-president, Paula Trilety-membership chair, Paul Stark-secretary, Roger Corpolongo-trustee, Garrett Dempsey-Trustee, Tamara Dyson-Treasurer, Marty Bastien, Jim Gallagher, Tom McNulty-DAM, Tim Kirsten-DAM, Sarah West, Heather Koch, Kathryn Underwood-Elite Archery, Jim Westphal, Elroy Reese-BSHA, Kevin Murphy, Dustin Campbell-Aiide to Comm. Alisha Bell, Comm. Alisha Bell, Rayshaun Landrum-City of Detroit, Juliana Fulton-City of Detroit, Shayne Sisco, Eileen Iannone, Frederick MacKinder, Gloria Turner-Buffalo Soldiers, James Mills-Buffalo Soldiers, Board Absent: Peggy Dankert-trustee, Arthur Edge-vice president, Lorraine Harris-corresponding secretary, Sam Shopinski-trustee**

Minutes from October were read and accepted. (Roger moved, Tom M. seconded, passed.)

**Treasurer's Report** for Oct. 2019 (Tamara Dyson). Donations: \$7.35 Amazon Smile, Kroger \$41.87. Balance: \$13,822.

**Membership Report** for Oct 2019 (Paula Trilety): 6 members renewed, and 0 new members joined this month and 0 new organizations joined, 1 organization renewed. Total members: 118. Total organizations: 16.

### President's Report

- Detroit Parks Coalition Update: They are working on a plan for all the member parks to work more closely together (pooling together for lower insurance costs, sharing grants, coordinating picnic shelter plans, etc.).
- Greening of Detroit Tree planting at Sorensen Rec. Area on Nov. 2 went well.
- Urban Parks Roundtable-Nov. 7: Sally attended. Focus was on ideas to increase corporate fundraising.
- Board elections have been scheduled for our annual meeting March 24, 2020.
- Board members will remain in their current positions until the Annual Meeting.
- The Strategic Framework public meeting was held on Nov. 13 at the Boys and Girls Club. Meeting was well attended and FORP was represented.
- Student Internships: We have posted the job description for the two interns (\$500/mo.) on our web site and are beginning to recruit applicants.
- GM is donating \$500 to FORP and will be listed as a corporate sponsor.
- Kresge Kip-D grant. Sally, Garrett and Sam are meeting tomorrow with Kresge to work on the grant for capacity building, trail design and development, or youth centered activities.
- Stone Bridge Trail Interpretive Signage. The signs are quickly rotting. We complained and they have now been replaced by Spectrum Signs.
- Garret attended the City of Detroit meeting with the potential contractors for the Golf Course. The City expressed a commitment for long-term (8+ year) contracts for high quality, stable golf courses. The City is working with Audubon Society to develop bird-friendly natural areas in the golf course.

**Master Plan Update:** Paul and Eileen spoke on the beginning of the work to put our Master Plan into a more presentable form.

Alisha Bell addressed the group. She spoke on the proposal to dispose of the historic Wilcox and Newburgh Mills and the parkland they occupy in Hines Park. Some spoke in opposition to the proposal. No one spoke in support.

### Reports

- **City Update** (Juliana Fulton and Rayshaun): Huron-Clinton Metroparks and the city have developed a partnership to develop a natural management plan for the park. They are planning to begin work in the prairie in December. The Metroparks will share their management plan with us before they start their work. Improvements in the Brennan Rec. Area should begin in spring and be completed by the summer. Cozy Corners soccer fields should be completed by next summer along with 20 picnic tables with concrete pads and a parking lot and picnic shelter. Sorensen Rec. Area project is under way and should be done in the spring.
- **Archery Range Update:** DWSD has found the sink holes that Eric has been complaining about forever and may actually fix them. The city is working with them to develop a plan for the improvements funded by the County.
- **Detroit Outdoors.** (Garrett Dempsey) They have created a video highlighting the camping program.
- **Buffalo Soldiers** met with city as is waiting on approval to expand their fenced area for their horses into the former canine area.