

## Friends of Rouge Park - Meeting Minutes – Sept. 15, 2020

Attendance (8 attendees): **Sally Petrella-president, Paul Stark-secretary, Peggy Dankert-trustee, Garrett Dempsey-Trustee, Paula Trilety-membership chair**, Lisa Harris, Jim Westphal, Sarah Stoolmiller (DWSD)

**Board Absent: Arthur Edge-vice president, Tamara Dyson-Treasurer, Lorraine Harris-corresponding secretary, Sam Shopinski-trustee**

Minutes from July were read and accepted. (Garret moved, Paula seconded).

**Treasurer's report** for August and September 2020 (Submitted by Tamara Dyson).

July beginning balance: \$14,750.50. July total expenses: \$0. July total revenues: \$55.00. July ending balance: \$14,805.50  
August beginning balance: \$14,805.50. August total expenses: \$0. August total revenues: \$1,268.81. August ending balance: \$16,074.31. Paula sent out an email plea for renewals and has received 12 renewals since Sept. 1.

**Membership report** for July and August 2020 (Paula Trilety): We had 3 new members, 1 renewal and 2 organization member renewals. We have a total of 132 members and 19 organizations.

### Updates on the Park:

- **Trailhead signage:** Paul and Sally have installed 5 signs so far.
- **Butterfly Garden Sign:** the sign posts were destroyed by a vehicle. The city has replaced them and placed the sign a little farther back from the road.
- **ORV vandalism:** We have submitted info, photos and videos of ORVs on the Stone Bridge Trail.
- **Recreation Area Improvements:** The Sorensen improvements and Cozy Corner ball fields are not completed yet. Construction on the splash pad has begun at the Brennan Rec. Area
- **Bike Lanes:** The bike lanes have been completed on Spinoza Dr. They are being well used. We have not heard any plans to complete the bike lanes throughout the rest of the park.
- **Prairie HCMP REI grant.** The bench and trash can has been ordered. They asked for input on the design of the bench and it was agreed that it will be a bench like the one at the Stone Bridge trailhead, but with concrete base. The Peace Pole has been ordered. The 4<sup>th</sup> language was decided. It will be a Native American language.
- **DWSD drainage plan:** Sally presented a map showing the trees that will be lost in the park from the construction of the ditch, and also a map of the parkland that will be lost to the drainage ditch itself. A decision has not been made about what will happen to the soil they remove. Sarah Stoolmiller of DWSD said that they will be asking for input from FORP on a design for a walking path and landscaping on the project.
- **Butterfly Walk:** The virtual butterfly walk was very successful with over 90 participants.
- **GM Cares:** 30 GM volunteers are coming on Sept. 19 to remove overgrowth along the paved bike trail in the Spinoza/Tireman area.
- **The Control Line Model Airplane Club** held their event at their Lahser location in August.

### Committee and Organizational Reports:

- **History Committee:** The committee has collected articles about Rouge Park in Michigan newspapers from 1919-1960. They are hoping to have all the articles from 1960 to the present completed by the end of the year.
- **Detroit Outdoors:** All social activities are still being postponed. They are working on a plan to include archery programming in Rouge Park in the future. Scout Hollow needs to be mowed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08pm.