

Friends of Rouge Park Meeting December 17, 2008

Attendance: Paul Stark, Sally Petrella, Chester Marvin, Paul Shwab, Eric Tomlinson (Elite Archery), Todd Scott (Mich. Mountain Biking Assoc.), Linda Wesley (Brenda Jone's Rep), Thomas McNulty, Sharon Miudoch, Lisa Goldsmith

Minutes: Accepted as read

Treasurer's Report: Total: \$2158.16.

Membership Report: Tom McNulty. 48 individual & family memberships and 9 organizational memberships. 57 total members.

Presidents Report:

- WCO is sponsoring a Mayoral Forum at St. Thomas Aquinas on Jan. 17 at noon.
- Warren Ave. sign will soon have a permanent addition of our web address. We have been assured the sign will remain visible when the Tunnel Project puts up the fence to close off Outer Drive.

Old Business:

-5K Run and spending of the money raised: The run brought net proceeds of between \$1500-1600. Sally talked to Craig Bristow from the city and he recommended recycled plastic timber benches costing \$1400 each. Metal ones such as in Siminek Park cost \$1420. These prices include installation. Todd Scott suggested getting donations by placing memorial plaques on the benches. Spending the money on a tree planting coordinated with Greening of Detroit was also discussed. We agreed to spend the money on one bench, or hopefully more, if we can get the city and/or others to match funds.

New Business:

- DWSD announced that they need to remove 21 huge trees including 9-10 very old and beautiful trees (oaks and others).
- DWSD is putting in several huge sewage spewing stacks in the park and wants input from us for a theme for the decorative exteriors of each one. We discussed placing images of the park (natural beauty, recreational uses, etc) and a park map on each one.
- Summer Events: Sally recruited members to head three committees: Rouge Park Appreciation Day-Sharon Miudoch, Discover Rouge Park Day-Eric T, 5K Run-Paul S. Tom M. offered to plan food for all events. Chris offered MMBA's gas grill for cooking.

Organizational Reports:

Mich. Trails and Greenways Alliance (formerly Rails and Trails), Todd Scott: MTGA is working on trails throughout the city and connecting them into a network. They are working on applying for grants to expand existing trails as well.

Elite Archery, Eric Tomlinson: A statewide archery tournament is scheduled for Feb 4.

Friends of the Rouge, Chester Marvin: Chester shared pictures of salmon spawning on the Lower Branch of the Rouge River.)

Greening of Detroit: Greening of Detroit officially has control of the Meyer's Nursery in Rouge Park.

D-Town Farm: D-Town is busy planning for next year's growing season. The Fair Food Foundation was planning on providing funding for them, but they lost all of their money in the Madoff scandal.

Far West Detroit Civic Assoc.: FWDCA community members are very concerned about the effect of the Tunnel Project blasting and the closing off of Outer Drive.

Next meeting: Wed. Jan. 21