

**The Friends of Rouge Park
Minutes
Nov. 18, 2009**

Attendance: Chester Marvin, Sally Petrella, Paul Stark, Tom McNulty, Paul Schwab, Lisa Goldsmith, Sgt. Aric Tosqui, Officer Randall Coleman

Introduction of new Community Relations Officers; Sgt. Aric Tusqui and Officer Randall Coleman. We discussed concerns in the park that Community Relations officers could assist with; off road vehicles, dumping, litter, abandoned cars. We also discussed how we can better coordinate with the police for events such as our 5K Run, and the possibility of working together to apply for grants for activities in the park (bicycle safety event, Canine Unit, etc.).

Minutes: Accepted as read

Treasurer's Report, Chester Marvin: Total \$4815.82

Membership Report, Tom McNulty: 46 individual and family memberships, 9 organizational memberships. Paul asked for email addresses for new members to add to our email mailing list.

President's Report, Sally Petrella

1. Tunnel Project Update: DDS, together with SEMCOG, funded a study conducted by City Green. The study concluded that we could reduce storm water going into the Rouge by 25% by disconnecting downspouts, reducing wide roads (i.e. Plymouth), putting in swales, planting more trees to absorb storm water, and other green infrastructure projects.

2. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Grants for restoration of Rouge Park Prairie and Eliza Howell Park wetlands and prairie were not funded.

3. Eliza Howell Park is being threatened by a member of the Howell family that originally donated the park to the city. He wants to reclaim the park and try to develop it as a big box store. He is trying to claim that Eliza Howell Park is no longer a "park" because the city has not been able to afford to keep the grass mowed and the park maintained.

4. We need to develop a stronger relationship with the Mayor's office and the new City Council (once they take office). Lisa Goldsmith agreed to draft a letter to Mayor Bing asking for a face-to-face meeting with us.

5. Sally, Paul and Chester represented FORP at the **Sculpture Unveiling in Rouge Park** on Nov. 12. We spoke with the artist about coordinating the official Dedication Ceremony with our Rouge Park Appreciation Day on June 5, 2010.

6. We found that the **\$1000 Capacity Building Grant** that we discussed at last meeting can be used to help us develop a Master Plan and Strategic Plan for our organization. We need a letter of support from the city to get the grant. First, we may need a general "memorandum of understanding" from the city establishing our relationship with the City Council. Sally drafted a proposed memorandum of understanding. We discussed how best to use the grant money. We agreed that it would be best used to provide training for our board to develop a strategic plan for the next five years for our organization.

Elections

All board members are willing to remain in their current positions, though Sally would very much like to have someone else be president. Sharon Miudoch was not present, so we don't know if she is willing to continue as vice president (we hope so!). Paul Stark will send an email out to our membership to recruit new board members.

New Business

1. Martian Marathon is running through Rouge Park next April. We should do a clean up the day before and offer other support.

2. Paul made a motion to do a vote of our membership, by email, asking if we should increase the number of trustee positions on our board from one to four, seconded by Chester Marvin, passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting: Dec. 16 6:00 pm
Dinner meeting at El Monterey**