

Friends of Hoyt Park

Minutes for Thursday: November 9, 2017 @6:45

Sequoia Branch, Madison Public Library

Welcome & Introductions: Tim Astfalk brought the meeting to order at 6:49P. Friends attendees included Tim Astfalk, Richard Adelman, Cheri Swenson, Tim Kessenich, Vaughan James, Tomas Gverzdys, Anne Reis, Anne Badey Raffa, and Ron Harris.

Public Comment: None

Meeting Minutes: Minutes for the meeting of October 12, 2017 approved by voice vote pending minor suggested additions.

Treasurer's Report:

- Financials: As of Nov 8, 2017 cash on hand was \$14,309.19. Requested but have not yet received the bill from the city for the 2017 summer ranger. A motion was made by Tomas G. and approved by voice vote that the Treasurer be authorized to pay the city up to the amount of \$9500 for the 2017 summer ranger. The annual grant from the Foundation endowment fund has been requested and is expected by mid November. Treasurer Tim K. gathered the personal information needed from board members to assist him in filling out the on-line report to the Bureau of Financial Institutions to maintain FOHP non-profit status.
- Check approval: Ron H requested reimbursement of \$68.60 for postage for the newsletter. Vaughan J requested reimbursement for the cost of printing the newsletter. Pending presentation of the receipt, the printing cost was approved for the amount not to exceed \$350 (actual cost \$316.30). The checks were approved by voice vote.
- Report approved by voice vote.

Announcements:

There was general discussion about the fact that the city crews mowed the Overlook Prairie area taking both prairie plants and woody plants down with the mowing. Unfortunately this will remove any 'winter interest' that the prairie plant seed heads give to the landscape. Tim A. will contact the city parks department via email to suggest that the city

1. contact the FOHP ahead of any mowing in no-mow areas,
2. Meet to coordinate FOHP workdays with city jobs
3. Thank the city for agreeing to put the garbage can back at the main parking lot despite the city policy to remove most park garbage cans by Nov 1st.

Committee Reports:

- Workdays: The **October 16th** workday was headed by Tim K and although lightly attended, about 2/3 of the Overlook brush pile was moved from the Overlook fence line to the other side of Owen Parkway for the city crews to chip. The **November 18th** workday will be headed by Tim A. and the task will be to move the rest of the Overlook brush pile from the fence line up to Owen Parkway with some possible mustard garlic and dames rocket pull. **Attendees should meet at the Overlook at 10AM.**
- Events/Outreach: none
- Membership/Communications: The colorful fall newsletter was prepared and published by Vaughan J. and includes an annual membership 'card'. The newsletter will be sent to all current members in order to inform them of past and future events in the park and to

provide them with a reminder to pay their annual dues. The board assisted by folding, stuffing, addressing and stamping the newsletters at the end of the meeting. Newsletters were mailed out on Nov 10th.

- **Ad-hoc: Picnic in the Park:** The Madison Park Foundation held their second annual Picnic in the Park on a cold Oct. 28th evening. The event was attended by around 200 people with valet parking at Hoyt school and the nearby neighborhood streets. A very large tent and walkway were heated and beautifully lighted for the gala event. Reports to FOHP board members found that attendees were quite impressed with the opulence of the event and enjoyed the evening thoroughly.

Old Business:

- Grants update

Existing grants: Tim A has drafted the final report/closeout letter for the Dane Co. Environmental Council

New grants for 2018: Tim A confirmed the FOHP can request funding from Dane Co. Environmental Council two years in a row. Tim A. will draft and Tomas G. will assist in preparing a 2018 request for \$1000 to help defray the cost of a controlled burn at both the Overlook and Ready prairies knowing that FOHP will need to pay around \$200 in addition to the \$1000 grant. Two burn contractor bids are required. The grant request is due late Feb 2018. The board discussed additional grant requests to Wildlife Acoustic for long term stationary or mobile bat monitoring equipment (due Feb. 15, 2018) and/or the DNR funded Citizen Based Monitoring Partnership Program to expand volunteer monitoring of 'natural resources'. The Citizen Based Monitoring grant was discussed as covering a broader scope (including bats, birds, bugs and butterflies, plants etc) but it is unclear whether the DNR will be able to fund the grant for 2018. Request for proposals will come out in early Spring. More discussion of this topic will be held in January when we potentially have more information.

- **FOHP Winter Party:** The annual Dec party has been revamped to be a **Family Sledding Party on Sunday Feb 18 from 1-3PM**. The Friends will contact the city ahead of the party to make sure that the electricity is on in the main shelter. There will be a fire in the shelter fireplace, hot cider and potluck dishes.
- **Eagle Scout Projects update:** Eagle Scout Sam Lynch's bat house is still pending final approval at the Madison Parks commission Nov. meeting. Brother and Eagle Scout Luke Lynch is going back to the drawing board after his proposal for a water erosion control rain garden at Roy's shelter was expanded by Laura B. (West Parks Supervisor) and Paul Q. (Conservation Resources Supervisor) to include a fieldstone lined trench across the service road to further funnel runoff down the bluff and away from the Cinderella stairs. The revised project was reconsidered by Luke and his troop leader to be too involved for an Eagle Scout project.

New Business: Because the Nov meeting was the last one of the year, the board voted to approve payment of up to \$9000 for the 2018 summer ranger.

Next Meeting Date: Jan 11 , 2018 6:45P @ Sequoia library

Meeting adjourned @ 8:30 P

Board

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