

**Friends of Hoyt Park**  
**Minutes for Thursday: September 14, 2017 @6:45**  
**Bethany Methodist Church**

**Welcome & Introductions:** Tim Astfalk brought the meeting to order at 6:50P. Guests from Boy Scout Troop 15 (Queen of Peace) were introduced as Ed Lynch Committee Chair Troop 15, Luke Lynch and Sam Lynch Troop 15 members. Friends attendees included Tim Astfalk, Richard Adelman, Cheri Swenson, Tim Kessenich, Vaughan James, Andrew Wickizer, Anne Reis, Anne Badey Raffa, and Ron Harris.

**Public Comment:** None

**Meeting Minutes:** Minutes for the meeting of July 13, 2017 approved by voice vote.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Financials: As of September 13, 2017 cash on hand was \$13,989.19
- Check approval: None
- Discussion: Tim K has not yet sent in the annual request for the endowment fund allotment. We are expecting to stay within our \$9000 allotment for the summer ranger. As of September 9th Ranger Erick has 68 hours left to work.
- Approved by voice vote.

**Announcements:** None

**Committee Reports:**

Workdays: July 15 workday included 8 FOHP volunteers who planted the 400 back-ordered native plants up near the Overlook. August 19 workday included around 10 FOHP volunteers for brush clearing along the fence up at the Overlook.

Events/Outreach: The August Bat survey conducted by Anne Reis with detection equipment provided by the DNR was well attended and around half of the attendees were non-members. There were 3 migratory bats seen. The iNaturalist bioblitz was held on Saturday August 26th and conducted by Ranger Erick. Around 12 people attended with ½ being non-members. iNaturalist was discussed by the board meeting attendees and it was determined that new rangers should be asked if they are comfortable with the use of social media including Facebook and iNaturalist.

Membership/Communications: Vaughan J. indicated that the fall newsletter will go out to 130 FOPH members early November and will include a membership form.

Ad-hoc: Picnic in the Park: Ron Harris to contact Stephanie (executive secretary for Madison Parks Foundation) to determine if FOHP can provide a small pamphlet regarding the FOHP accomplishments over the last 20y or provide a FOHP speaker to update the attendees regarding the history of the FOHP and it's accomplishments. Bill Tishler and Jean MacCubbin were brought up as possible speakers.

### **Old Business:**

- Grants update: Still need to purchase herbicide and tools with the remaining \$1175. No reports are required for the Mead & Hunt grant but Tim A will send a report to the Dane County Environmental Council by year end.
- Ranger Farewell: September 7th farewell for Ranger Erick was held at the Overlook picnic area and attended by around 8-10 people despite the prediction of rain. Erick was thanked for his many contributions over the summer and indicated that when he was done with his allotted work hours he would be taking his band 'on the road'. Many thanks to our multi-talented summer ranger Erick Fruehling.
- Volunteer workday: The September 16th workday will be seed gathering at Pheasant Branch conservancy meeting at 9:30A in the parking lot of the park in order to carpool. Tim K has the collection equipment. Bring hand clippers if have. Oct 21st workday will be invasive brush removal with Nov 18th workday weather permitting.
- FOHP Winter Party: After exploring options for the Winter Party it was decided to 'let it go' and table alternative winter social events such as a family sledding party or a weekend potluck at the shelter until the October meeting.

### **New Business:**

- Eagle Scout Projects (discussed early in the meeting agenda) were presented for discussion by Sam and Luke Lynch.
  - Sam Lynch introduced himself as a sophomore at West High who has been a Boy Scout since 1st grade. His service project proposal was to build a rocket style bat house on a 12 ft pole at the edge of the tree canopy between the large shelter and the school. It was suggested that because of the shallow bedrock in the park Sam may want to consider secondary site alternatives in that area of the park. Sam is waiting to hear back from the City Parks Dept westside operations director Laura B. for approval and was asking FOHP to approve the concept. After discussion which included Anne Reis suggesting that Sam consider monitoring the box after construction to gather data on use. Anne has DNR bat monitoring equipment available for use. The project was approved by a voice vote.
  - Luke Lynch introduced himself as a sophomore at West High who has been a Boy Scout since 1st grade. His service project proposals were to build a landing at the bottom of the Overlook stairs in order to make up for the 2.5-3ft drop to the first step caused by erosion at the base of the stairs. City Parks Dept. Operations manager Lisa L. has given the project a 'thumbs up' but City Historic Preservation planner Amy S. would need to approve a project that abuts the historic landmark stairs. His alternative project is to build a rain garden on the Roy's shelter side of the service road to cut down on water runoff erosion on the bridal/ Cinderella stairs. A vote on Luke's project was postponed pending a decision by Luke after further investigation with the city.

- Grants for 2018: Anne Reis suggested that consider applying for a Citizen Scientist grant which has a \$5000 limit for natural resource monitoring with call for proposals to be in 2018 or a Wildlife Acoustic Bat monitoring grant for installation of permanent monitoring equipment (deadline for application Feb 2018). Tim K also suggested asking for another Dane County Environmental Council grant to defray the cost of a controlled burn contractor. Discussion to continue on suggestions.
- DuRose Terrace personal property owner is asking for FOHP approval to investigate the option of creating burn piles or hauling brush from the DuRose side of the Overlook fence through the park for chipping by the commercial company hired by the property owner. The FOHP determined that a winter time project of hauling and chipping cut brush in the park was not going to be harmful to the park.
- Meeting minute approval by email vote proposed by secretary Cheri S was approved by voice vote for those instances when no meeting was going to be held for 2 months. The secretary would send out the draft minutes with an email response deadline. If there were no corrections before the deadline then the minutes would be approved and finalized for posting on the website.

**Next Meeting Date:** October 12 , 2017 6:45P @ Sequoya library

**Meeting adjourned @ 9:00 P**

**Board**

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Richard Adelman  
Cheri Swenson  
Tim Kessenich  
Vaughan James  
Elise Uphoff  
Andrew Wickizer

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Chris Stroebel (VanChaMaShe)  
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**Committee Chairs**

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