

Friends of Hoyt Park
Minutes for Thursday:February 8, 2018 @6:45
Sequoia Branch, Madison Public Library

Welcome & Introductions: Tim Astfalk brought the meeting to order at 6:53P. Friends attendees included Tim Astfalk, Richard Adelman, Cheri Swenson, Tim Kessenich, Andrew Wickizer, Tomas Gverzdys and Anne Reis.

Public Comment: None

Meeting Minutes: Minutes for the meeting of January 18, 2018 approved by voice vote with minor corrections.

Treasurer's Report:

- **Financials:** As of February 7, 2018 cash on hand was \$11,842.52 including \$1000 anonymous check. The board discussed the three bids obtained by Tim K for the cost of the controlled burn of both prairies. Quercus (\$1150 to include \$50 burn permit but no provision for fire break), Tall Grass (\$1276) and Good Oak (\$1458 to include \$300 for firebreak creation). The board voted to have Quercus prepare an official proposal which will be balanced by FHP volunteer hours to prepare the firebreak.
- **Check approval:** None, no expenses in January.
- Report approved by voice vote.

Announcements: FHP co-founder Nancy Dott died in February. Tim A spoke of Nancy's contributions to the park. Tim will send a card to the Dott family and attend the memorial service for Nancy to be held in February. Her full obituary can be accessed via the link below.

<http://www.cressfuneralservice.com/obituary/238955/Nancy-Dott/>

Old Business:

- **FHP Winter Party:** To be held on Sunday February 18 from 1-3PM whether we have snow or not. Board members will provide snacks and Tomas G. will start a fire in the main shelter fireplace and provide hot chocolate and hot cider. Flyers to be prepared by Anne R. will be distributed by Cheri S and Richard A to those households adjacent to the park. Anne R. will post the flyer on the Sunset Village listserve.
- **Review of Dane Co. Environmental Council Community Partner grant:** Tomas G. sent a draft of the grant proposal to defray the cost of via email as well as providing hard copies for review. A few minor edits were suggested and the board approved the grant proposal content due Feb. 28, 2018. Thank you to Tomas.
- **Review of Owl Walk:** Held Tuesday Jan. 30th at 6PM. The walk was very well attended despite the icy conditions. No owls were heard or seen but a shelter fire, snacks and hot chocolate were enjoyed prior to the owl hike. The unofficial headcount was 50 people with about 40% children. Anne R. suggested that we begin to keep a more official accounting of attendees in order to target our advertising of events and to more effectively reach out to those who enjoy park events with the hope of expanding our membership in the future. Other board members agreed.

- **Review of meeting with City Park staff:** Tim A, Tim K and Richard A met with city park staff Conservation Resources supervisor Paul Q. and westside parks supervisor Laura B. on Jan. 29th. Discussion included FHP summer ranger plans, the city was non-committal regarding the concept of FHP directing workdays in order to share work projects with city staff, trail maintenance supplies were approved, the city will 'look into' doing something about the large step down from the Overlook stairs to the path although no concrete timeline was discussed, the city will provide staff to clear any trees that fall on park paths but FHP will need to provide work hours by a member with chainsaw certification in order to clear any other trees that we feel need to be taken care of. The city would like FHP to conduct a jumping worm survey. Cheri S suggested that this survey should be conducted by an individual (ranger Erick) so that jumping worms were not spread to other areas by volunteers.
- Cheri S wanted to get on record another suggestion for **future annual meeting speakers**. Anna Andrzejewski, chair of the UW Art History department spoke at another venue about the history of the cultural landscape of parks and greenspace in Madison. Anna was interested in giving a similar talk to the FHP at a future meeting. The talk can be tailored to our needs but focused on the creation or preservation of parks and public green space as the city was built and mentioned the Park and Pleasure drive.

New Business:

- **Annual meeting prep:** April 19th, 6:45-8:30P, Bethany Church meeting hall
 - Nominating committee will not be needed as Board Members Andrew W, Tim K and Tim A have all agreed to run again. No current board members have served the maximum two 2y terms. We will try to contact all other board members who are in the middle of their 2y term to see if any of them would like to step down. Those individuals would be replaced by appointment and not election.
 - Tim K will prepare a draft 2018 budget for review and finalization at the March board meeting.
 - Andrew W will provide 2017 Annual Meeting minutes for review. Cheri S will take 2018 meeting minutes.
 - Board members will provide snacks and beverages for 15-25 people.
 - Meeting speaker will be Jennifer Redell, Conservation Biologist with the DNR who will speak for 45-60 minutes about Wisconsin native bat species. She will be bringing some live rehab bats with her.
- **Schedule and Activities for 2018 FHP workdays:** The board discussed dates and projects for the 2018 workdays to be presented in final version for posting on the FHP website and to include March firebreak for burn and general cleanup, April garlic mustard pull (in association with Earth Day events), May and June planting to include milkweed plants. Other work project suggestions included trail and fireplace maintenance and prairie seed broadcasting and fall collection.
- **Update on summer ranger:** Erick Fruehling will return as summer ranger starting in April. He will be taking a 4w vacation in May/June but will be at the park for one month prior to vacation.

- **Network for Good Giving:**FHP rec'd a \$1000 anonymous donation through the network. The board reviewed the terms of the donation site and decided that there were no conditions aside from using the funds wisely. The board accepted the donation.

Next Meeting Date: March 8, 2018 6:45P @ Sequoya library

Meeting adjourned @ 8:30P

Board

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

timastfalk@yahoo.com
radelman18@gmail.com
caswenso@wisc.edu
kesset@tds.net
rvjames@rvjdesigns.com
Iverson.elise@gmail.com
awickizer9@gmail.com

Ranger

Erick Fruehling

e.fruehlin@gmail.com

Neighborhood Association Reps

Tomas Gverzdys (Rocky Bluff)
Anne Reis (Regent)
Chris Stroebel (VanChaMaShe)
Anne Bady Raffa (Sunset Village)
Vacant (Sunset Hills)

tomas.gverzdys@gmail.com
ahreis@mailcan.com
Christopher.stroebel@stroebllaw.com
dancinthrulife14@gmail.com

Other

Ron Harris
Jean MacCubbin
John Elliott

rwharris@wisc.edu
citizenjean2@gmail.com
elliott@edgewood.com