

Friends of Hoyt Park

Minutes for Thursday: Jan 18, 2018 @6:45

Sequoia Branch, Madison Public Library

Welcome & Introductions: Tim Astfalk brought the meeting to order at 6:55P. 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 Nov 11, 2017 approved by email vote in November due to no Dec meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

- **Financials:** 2017 year end balance of \$10,642.52 was \$1273 less than the year end balance of 2016. This was attributed to both a small decrease in income and a small increase in expenses. Of note is that a \$500 workplace match of a 2017 member donation will be counted as 2018 income. As of Jan 18 , 2018 cash on hand was \$10,752.52.
- **Check approval:** None
- Report approved by voice vote.

Announcements: The Eagle Scout project of Sam Lynch has been completed. The new Rocket Box bat house is located on the edge of the oak trees up by the main shelter. Although the box is black to facilitate heat the pole that it is on is painted in a camouflage pattern.

Tim A announced that Erick Fruehling is interested in returning as our 2018 summer ranger. FHP will still advertise with the city for a ranger in case Erick obtains a permanent job elsewhere.

Old Business:

- **Grants update:** Tomas G has is nearly finished with a draft of the Community Partnership grant application offered through Dane Co. Environmental Council. The grant, if awarded, would be for \$1000 and would defray much of the cost of burning both the Ready and Overlook prairie areas (estimated total cost of \$1600). Tomas asked that neighborhood reps send him a letter of support to be included with the application. Once the draft is complete Tomas will circulate it for internal approval.

The Board discussed applying for the Dane Co. Environmental Council capital equipment grant of \leq \$2500 which could be matched with labor hours but, although the Friends could get more funds, the layers of approval (Parks commission followed by Common Council) are too arduous to attempt for projects needed in 2018.

Anne Reiss indicated that the DNR has made no decision about whether they will be accepting applications for the 2018 Citizen Based Monitoring Partnership grant.

- **Owl Walk:** Tuesday Jan 30, 6PM at the main shelter. The light have been confirmed as being on and picnic tables are available. John E is in charge of the fire, Ron H will bring cups, hot chocolate and cookies, other board members can bring additional treats. Tim A

will lead the group on a walk to hear the park owls. Owls have been heard in the area surrounding the park so we hope to hear some owl calls.

- **Family Sledding Party:** Sunday Feb. 18, 1-3PM, Main Shelter. Snow or no snow. Tomas G has been heading this event and will have hot chocolate and cider, a fire and Board members will provide potluck snacks.

Vaughan J. will be sending an email reminder about both events to 'e'members and a physical postcard to those members who require snail mailings.

New Business:

- **Ideas for April annual meeting:** Tim A asked for ideas for speakers/topics for the upcoming annual meeting **a)** new city conservation resources supervisor Paul Quinlan, **b)** DNR Jen S. to talk about the trail cam project Snapshot WI, **c)** DNR bat biologist Jen R to talk about the bat program (and bring in live bats), **d) (future)** have city historic preservation planner Amy Scanlon talk about why Hoyt Park is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Board indicated that primary interest was in the bat program and Anne Reis was to contact Jen R. to see if she was available in April. (Jen R. is available Thursday April 19 and would like 45-60 min to speak and show the bats; Vaughan J is checking to see if Bethany has a room for us on that date). The format of the annual meeting is 30-60 minute presentation followed by snacks and a business meeting where officers are nominated.

- **Meeting with city Parks Laura B and Paul Q:** Tim A and Richard A will be meeting with the city parks staff on Jan 29, 9AM (date not yet firm) to discuss: a) language for posting of summer ranger position, b) upcoming city projects in the park and piggy backing FHP labor hours to assist, c) city suggestions for FHP work day projects, d) FHP grant application progress, e) update from city re: action on the Overlook stair dropoff, f) city suggestions for projects for the summer ranger, g) thank city for maintaining year round garbage collection in the park.
- **New Board Members:** Next meeting will need to setup a formal nominating committee for new board members. In the meantime it will be determined which board members have served the max of two 2-year terms.

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

Meeting adjourned @ 8:15 P

Board

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Richard Adelman
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Tim Kessenich
Vaughan James
Elise Uphoff
Andrew Wickizer

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