

Friends of Hoyt Park

Minutes for Thursday: July 11, 2019 @6:45 PM

Sequoia Branch, Madison Public Library

Welcome & Introductions: Tim Astfalk brought the meeting to order at 6:55PM. Friends attendees included Tim Astfalk, Cheri Swenson, Tim Kessenich, Andrew Wickizer, Tomas Gverzdys and Ranger Peter Pfister.

Public Comment: None

Meeting Minutes: Minutes for the meeting of June 13, 2019 approved by voice vote pending minor edits.

Treasurer's Report:

- **Financials:** As of July 9, 2019 cash on hand was \$12,653.75.
- **Check approval:** none
- A \$220 honorarium was received from PLATO for hosting a historical walk through Hoyt Park. \$500 was received as a match for a 2018 member donation.
- Report approved by voice vote.

Announcements:

- **June workday:** trail maintenance work done. Ranger Peter noted overall trails are in fine shape but there are still a couple of spots that have eroded due to heavy rainfall.
- **July 20 workday:** fireplace cleaning and brush clearing, meet at the main parking lot.
- **August 17 workday:** proposed buckthorn busting with a concentration on the right side of the Overlook. Bring loppers.
- **Ranger review:** Ranger Peter has taken a full time job in Texas and will be leaving mid-August. He reports that Glen T has been helping to get invasives under control by cutting buckthorn. The trails are in good shape, although there is significant erosion at the top of the Cinderella staircase. He suggests limited grading at the top of the stairs to help control runoff erosion. Peter suggests that the city do repeat mowing (2x per year, early spring and late fall as opposed to once per year) on the low mow area up by Hoyt School to better control invasives. Tim A will email the Paul and Laura at the city to seek approval of the proposed projects.
Peter has reviewed the 10 year plan and indicated that he would be happy to mulch around the oaks up by the Overlook. The city has revised their policy on this and instead using weed trimmers around the tree base when mowing is done therefore no mulching will be needed.

Old Business:

- **Annual picnic:** The annual picnic and family activities will be July 28 from noon-3PM at the main shelter. Ace Hardware has offered to provide prizes for the photo scavenger hunt. The board brainstormed on ideas for the hunt and Tomas G will narrow the ideas down to 10 items. Anne R has prepared a flyer to advertise the event. We will allow

kids/families to begin the hunt anytime after the start of the picnic and prizes will be awarded at 2PM. The picnic will be potluck with hotdogs and lemonade provided.

- **Summer newsletter:** Currently being worked on. Vaughan is waiting for people to get their assigned articles in to him.

New Business:

- **Ranger Farewell Party:** Informal potluck get together will be held 6PM August 8 at the Overlook picnic area to say goodbye to Ranger Peter Pfister.
- **Plans for Hoyt School:** The Friends will stay tuned as we get nearer to any actions/public forums on the proposed changes.

Next Meeting Date: September 11, 2019; 6:45PM @ Sequoya library

Meeting adjourned @ 7:50PM