

Friends of Hoyt Park
Minutes for Thursday: June 13, 2019 @6:45 PM
Sequoia Branch, Madison Public Library

Welcome & Introductions: Tim Astfalk brought the meeting to order at 6:50PM. Friends attendees included Tim Astfalk, Richard Adelman, Cheri Swenson, Andrew Wickizer, Anne Reis, Anne Badey Raffa, Tomas Gverzdy, Ron Harris and Ranger Peter Pfister. Public attendee Mark Manville Sunset Hills community association president.

Public Comment: Via Ron Harris; 1949 Capital Times article noted the summer Hoyt Park Girl Scout day camp hosted 528 Girl Scouts and 293 Brownies. Great use of the park!
Mark Manville of Sunset Hills presented information from a recent Wisconsin State Journal article and from further investigation regarding the proposed repurposing of Hoyt School as an alternative MMSD high school. Central High would be consolidated from the east side location at Lapham grade school and a west side location at a spot rented by the district. Consolidation is dependent on a November 2020 referendum approval for \$5M to pay for \$4.6M in deferred maintenance with the rest being spent on improvements. Public input will be sought in August or September this year. If approved, the school would be targeted for opening in 2022.

Meeting Minutes: Minutes for the meeting of May 9, 2019 approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report:

- **Financials:** As of June 10, 2019 cash on hand was \$12,207.
- **Check approval:** Ron H presented a bill for the summer ranger shirts for \$112.
- Report and payment of the bill for shirts approved by voice vote.

Announcements:

- **May work day:** rainy, cool weather for the garlic mustard pull by a hardy group of members. Three large bags were collected.
- **June work day:** Meet at the main parking lot on June 15 for trail maintenance. The city dropped off a load of gravel in the main parking lot. Ranger Peter will suggest the trails to concentrate on. Rain bars also need clearing if time allows.
- **PLATO walk review:** 12 PLATO members attended the May 29th walk led by Tim K, Richard A and Ranger Peter. Tim K fielded many questions on the history and current park status. The group also walked over to Quarry Park.

Old Business:

- **Annual picnic:** Tomas G reported that he reserved the main shelter on Sunday July 28 from 11-3pm. The picnic will be potluck and we will host a kids scavenger hunt. We hope to repurpose a Devil's Lake scavenger hunt. Tomas contacted Ace Hardware Hilldale who have agreed to provide some outdoor games as a donation to the group. We discussed having non-member attendees fill out a non-paying membership form so that

they can get on our mailing list and potentially become paying members in the future. Anne R will make a flyer for the event so that Tomas can send it to Alder Shiva Bidar-Sielaff and closer to the event the neighborhood reps can post on the Regent, SVCA and Sunset Hills list serve.

- **Summer newsletter:** Mid-July publication of newsletter requires that we send our articles to Vaughan as soon as possible.
- **Membership letter to new park neighbors:** Cheri S reported that she had met with Debra Lawson who was very helpful in providing a list of 133 Hoyt Park area new home owners to be invited to visit the park as well as names and addresses for surrounding established park neighbors. Discussion centered around whether to focus on new households or all neighbors. Due to manpower and cost we decided to focus on new households. We will decide what and how to send park info to the new homeowners near the park; summer newsletter, letter of introduction, postcard on the upcoming summer picnic/ scavenger hunt etc.

New Business:

- **Summer ranger introduction and report:** Summer ranger Peter Pfister started work May 22. He is from Indiana and went to school in Dayton, Ohio earning an Environmental Biology major with a Sustainability minor. He has been working Monday through Thursday 7-5 and has been coordinating with Tim K and Paul Quinlan at city parks. Peter reported working on creating a swale from the west side of the main parking lot to the ravine to prevent water from pooling in the parking lot, removal of the black raspberry canes from the right side of the main parking lot entrance, cutting back the reed canary grass from the SW corner of the Ready Prairie (continued cutting will eventually kill the grass roots), and pulling garlic mustard and Dame's Rocket. He will also be clearing trail rain bars of debris. He has all of the supplies that he needs and is working on obtaining certification for herbicide use.
- **Sunset Hills neighborhood rep:** Mark Manville might be interested in being the Hoyt Park rep for the Sunset Hills neighborhood. He reported that Sunset Hills does have a list serve and they are working on a comprehensive directory of the neighborhood residents. Any advertising of events can be sent to Mark for posting on their list serve.
- **Independent project proposed:** Glen T. has just retired and is looking for a project in the park. He would propose to work 3-4 h per week. Tim A will meet with him to discuss potential options.

Next Meeting Date: July 11, 6:45PM @ Sequoya library

Meeting adjourned @ 8:15PM