

Friends of Hoyt Park
Minutes for Thursday, November 14, 2019 @6:45 PM
Sequoia Branch, Madison Public Library

Welcome & Introductions: Tim Astfalk brought the meeting to order at 6:45PM. Friends attendees included Tim Astfalk, Richard Adelman, Cheri Swenson, Tim Kessenich, Andrew Wickizer, Betsy Lane, Vaughan James, Anne Reis, and Glenn Teschendorf.

Public Comment: General discussion regarding upcoming meetings addressing the revamping of Hoyt School. November 16 (1:30PM) meeting information sent out to MSCR participants and December 10 (6PM at First Baptist Church 518 N. Franklin Ave.) meeting information sent by Alder Shiva Bidar to neighbors surrounding the school. Meetings will present the tentative plans that the Madison Metropolitan School District has for reverting Hoyt School to classrooms for the alternative high school Capital High.

Meeting Minutes: Minutes for the meeting of October 10, 2019 approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report:

- **Financials:** As of November 11, 2019 cash on hand was \$6,645.41
- **Check approval:** None
- We received and paid the 2019 summer ranger invoice from the City. Salary and fringes totaled \$8,857.10.
- Report approved by voice vote.

Announcements:

- **October workday:** A group of volunteers pulled easy to find garlic mustard and Dames Rocket just north of the Overlook and hauled previously cut brush to the street for city pickup. We had two new volunteers from volunteer opportunities posted by Epic.
- **November workday:** Volunteers will meet at the Main parking lot at 10am to haul more brush to the street and spread prairie seed at the Overlook Prairie. Tim A had received an email indicating that the Middleton High School Key Club was interested in volunteering. Anne Reis suggested that we attempt to reachout to UW Horticulture and Ecology students via flyer posting for future workdays. She has contacts in the departments that may be able to assist with posting.

Old Business:

- **Newsletter update:** Vaughan J. brought a mockup of the newsletter for review with a target posting/ mailing date of the first week in December. Thank you to Vaughan for his continued work on the website, facebook page and newsletter. An email with a link to the posted newsletter will be sent out as well as 25 copies mailed to those members who prefer to read a hard copy.

- **Prairie Burn 2020/ Dane County Environmental Council Grant:** The best timing for the prairie burn would be a back-to-back burn; Spring 2019, Spring 2020. At this time the FHP bank balance does not have enough funds to support a summer ranger and pay for a Spring 2020 burn of both prairies. We anticipate that membership renewals will collect enough funds to support the 2020 summer ranger (approximately \$9000) but cannot also guarantee extra to support the estimated \$1150 to pay for the Spring burn. The board discussed several options to cover the cost of the burn.
 - a. Apply for the Dane County Environmental Council grant of \$1000; this grant is due at the end of February 2020 and we would not find out if we would be awarded the grant until March which is too late to schedule a Spring burn. The grant money, if awarded, could be applied to a burn in fall 2020 or spring 2021 which, although not ideal would still give the prairies a burn to continue to help control invasives.
 - b. Wait until January 9 board meeting to see if membership renewals have collected enough funds to pay for the 2020 summer ranger and a Spring burn of both prairies. We would still have enough time to apply for the Dane Co. grant AND schedule the burns.
 - c. Burn only the Overlook prairie in the Spring and pay ‘out of pocket’ saving any grant money to have a burn conducted on both prairies at a later date. Tim K will seek cost information of burning only the Overlook prairie.

No decision was made and there is no December 2019 board meeting. The January 9, 2020 meeting will give the board enough information to make a decision.

- **Owl Walk date:** The date for the 2020 Full Moon Owl Walk is set for Saturday February 8th. Meet at the main shelter at 5:30PM. Ann Reis offered to look for an owl expert to lead the walk.
- **Winter Sledding Party:** The date for the 2020 Winter Sledding Party is Sunday January 12 from 1-3PM. We will meet at the Main Shelter for fun in the snow.
- **Sandwich board for advertising events:** General discussion of use of sandwich boards for advertising FHP events included use of sandwich boards yes/no and if yes how many and where to place them, use of dry erase surface and how it would hold up to the elements (dry erase paint, adhesive dry erase sheets), use of laminated pre-made event information to hang on sandwich boards. The board determined that we should try to add sandwich board advertising to our current advertising techniques of email to the membership and posting on the FHP website, Facebook page and neighborhood list serves (SVCA, Regent and Sunset Hills). Tomas G. made two sandwich boards for the summer picnic and has agreed to let FHP use the boards. No decision was made regarding where to place the boards and how to secure them from theft. The dry erase option has a couple of problems; durability and the requirement for artistic creativity with each event. Anne R. tallied the different events held by the Friends to 6 events plus the workdays. She indicated that she would mockup some sheets that could be laminated and hung on the current sandwich boards. Lamination at Staples cost \$2 per square foot.

New Business:

- The **Sequoia library room** can no longer be reserved for the full year and now must be reserved no more than 2 months in advance.
- **Topic for April 2020 Annual meeting:** Tim A asked for suggestions and the board discussed Arboretum staff presentations on Pollinator Gardens or jumping worms as well as a history of park lands in Madison. It was decided to pursue a history topic. Cheri S. will contact Anna Andrzejewski, a professor in the UW Art History department who has given a presentation for Allen Centennial Gardens on the history of the development of parks in Madison including the Park and Pleasure Drive.

Next Meeting Date: January 9, 2020, 6:45PM @ Sequoia library

Meeting adjourned @ 8:35 PM