

Friends of Hoyt Park
Minutes for Thursday, June 11, 2020 @6:45 PM
Hoyt Park, Roy's Shelter

Welcome & Introductions: Tim Astfalk brought the meeting to order at 6:55 PM. Friends attendees included Tim Astfalk, Richard Adelman, Cheri Swenson, Tim Kessenich, and Andrew Wickizer.

Public Comment: None

Meeting Minutes: Minutes for the meeting of March 12, 2020 approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report:

- **Financials:** As of June 9, 2020 cash on hand was \$12,945.86.
- 2020 Contributions from members is down from last year with a total of \$1003 (\$580 checks and \$423 PayPal). Actual 2019 cash contributions was \$7348. The decline in contributions can be explained in part by the COVID-19 pandemic preventing our in-person annual meeting and in part due to delay of the Summer Newsletter or other membership drives. We continue to advertise for donations on moveable sandwich boards placed in the park.
- **Check approval:** Reimbursement check to Cheri S for \$28.41 to cover the cost of Sharpie oil-based markers used on sandwich boards placed in the park.
- **2020 Budget discussion:** Review of the **grant request** sent to Dane County Environmental Council has been delayed due to the COVID-19 public health emergency and, if granted, will most likely be awarded in 2021. The **controlled prairie burn** will be rescheduled for Spring 2021 pending progress with the public health restrictions. Given the sharp decrease in income a voice vote was taken regarding whether to hire a summer ranger for the remains of the 2020 summer now that the hiring freeze has been lifted. It was decided to **not hire a full time summer ranger** but to consider other options for projects in the park. We voted on the option of offering a **no-cost summer intern position** to a U of Minnesota Environmental Education student. The internship would be for 120 hours and has been approved by Paul Quinlan (City Parks conservation supervisor). The student would like to start in the last half of July. We will discuss educational project suggestions at our July board meeting. With these discussions in mind, the annual 2020 budget proposed by treasurer Tim K. was amended for final approval at a later date.
- Report approved by voice vote.

Announcements:

- **Work Day June 20:** Meet at 10 AM in the main parking lot to concentrate on invasive species removal, especially Dames Rocket, in the northeast section of the park.

Old Business:

- **Summer Ranger:** The board voted on a motion to hire a no-cost summer intern for 120 hours instead of a full time summer ranger and, if the summer intern falls through, to consider a part-time summer ranger.

- **Annual Meeting:** We will continue to delay the annual meeting and attempt to work within the by-laws to review and approve an annual budget, incorporate new board members and collect membership renewals. We have previously identified 4 individuals interested in serving on the board and will attempt to engage these individuals in future board meetings. If a current board member resigns, the remaining board members can appoint a replacement.
- **Dane County Environmental Council:** Delayed and any review is unknown at this time.
- **Questions for Paul Quinlan:** Tim A. will email Paul regarding the following: Can we have the weed wacker back for use by volunteers and are there restrictions on volunteer use of that equipment? How to handle disposal waste from citizen collection of invasive species? How to dispose of approximately 2 gal. of rinse material from oil-based herbicide application?

New Business:

- **Future work days:** FHP can now have socially distanced work days and will continue to advertise monthly works days through our website, member email, facebook page and the city website.

Next Meeting Date: July 9, 6:45PM @ Roy's shelter

Meeting adjourned @ 8:00 PM