

Friends of Hoyt Park
Minutes for Thursday, January 14 , 2021 @6:45 PM
Zoom Meeting

Welcome & Introductions: Tim Astfalk brought the meeting to order at 6:50PM. Friends attendees included Tim Astfalk, Rich Jablonski, Glenn Teschendorf, Cheri Swenson, Tim Kessenich, Betsy Lane and Ron Harris.

Public Comment: None

Meeting Minutes: Minutes for the meeting of Nov 12, 2020 approved by voice vote with minor edits.

Treasurer's Report:

- **Financials:** As of January 12, 2021 cash on hand was \$21,650 with \$8723 from member contributions. \$1000 is committed to Quercus for the Spring 2021 burn.
- **Check approval:** none
- Report approved by voice vote.

Announcements:

- none

Old Business:

- **Vegetation Management recommendations from Good Oak:** Frank Hassler of Good Oak has prepared a 40 page summary of his recommendations for Hoyt Park restoration. The report was very comprehensive and recommends choosing high priority areas of the park to aggressively remove not only invasive species but non-oak native species to restore the park to oak savannah and oak woodland. This would include thinning current wooded areas with 90% canopy cover to 50-80% canopy cover for oak woodland and <50% canopy cover for oak savannah and would mean cutting down mature native trees. The Good Oak recommendations were shared with Chad Hughes, westside parks supervisor, who will share with other parks planning staff to obtain input. City input is expected before the next FHP Board meeting on Feb 11, 2021. Because the report is so dense, a FHP Board committee of Tim A, Betsy L and Ron H will focus the recommendations for the Board and present information at the Feb. Board meeting.
- **Good Oak payment:** The original quote from Good Oak was \$120 and included a walk through of the park and a written report. Having spent more hours than anticipated on the report, Frank H. of Good Oak has proposed an in-kind contribution for time and services rendered. The board agreed to consider the contribution given more details.
- **Reports from Glenn T regarding his 2019 and 2020 volunteer service projects:** Glenn T presented his final report for the Bluff St. invasives clearing, a volunteer service project from 2019 in which he put in 50 of the total 75 volunteer hours. At the end of 2019, Glenn had cut 30 brush piles worth of woody invasives, leaving 3ft stumps to be recut and painted with herbicide in 2020. Glenn was unable to obtain certification for herbicide application in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Bluff St. project area

has since been determined to be low priority for restoration. He has now obtained herbicide application certification and hopes to identify a volunteer who has chainsaw certification to assist in recutting stumps in 2021. Further work on this project will concentrate on the area adjacent to the Ready Prairie. Glenn also presented his report on the 2020 clearing of woody invasives SW of the Overlook. Glenn T, Tim A, and Tim K spent 160 volunteer hours and were assisted by the City in clearing invasives and applying herbicide in the ½ acre area. This area was overseeded with prairie and woodland flower seed. A \$1000 donation was given to the Friends group by a Bagley Ct. neighbor who appreciated the clearing and the fact that a privacy buffer was left in the area adjacent to homeowners properties. The reports in full will be forwarded to the Board members.

New Business:

- **Authorization to hire a summer ranger:** The Board agreed to hire a summer ranger in 2021. Tim A will check with the City to determine if we need to post the position or if we can offer the position to the candidate identified in 2020 but who was unable to be hired due to the City hiring freeze. Discussion of whether to hire a ranger who could work 2x the usual summer ranger hours or hire 2 summer rangers was tabled until the February Board meeting pending an answer from the City.
- **Dane Co. Environmental Council Grant 2021:** The Board decided to apply for the Dane Co. grant in 2021 with the application due at the end of February. Tim A agreed to prepare the application for \$1000 to support a 2022 Spring burn of the Prairies.
- **Virtual 2021 Annual Membership meeting and Board transition:** After discussion regarding safety and timing, the Board decided that an outdoor late summer or early fall annual meeting would be preferable to a virtual Spring meeting. Further discussion on the FHP Board transition was tabled until the February meeting.
- **Fundraising:** Tim A suggested that we target a fundraising campaign towards either a demonstration area of restoration or restoration of the Hoyt Park fireplaces which have seen greatly increased use during the pandemic as park users enjoy allowed outdoor gatherings. The general consensus was that restoration of the fireplaces would be a good fundraising project as the need is great and the fireplaces are unique to Hoyt Park. The topic of a fundraising campaign will be revisited at the February Board meeting.

Next Meeting Date: Feb 11, 2021, 6:45PM via Zoom

Meeting adjourned @ 8:40PM