

Friends of Hoyt Park
Minutes for Thursday, March 11, 2021 @6:45 PM
Zoom Meeting

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

Public Comment: None

Meeting Minutes: Minutes for the meeting of February 11, 2021 approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report:

- **Financials:** As of March 6, 2021 cash on hand was \$22,484. Member contributions since Feb. 8th totaled \$1040. A \$635 increase over last month. This includes a check for \$500 from Sunset Village Community Association. Thank you to Sunset Village representative Anne Raffa for making this happen.
- **Check approval:** none
- The Madison Community Foundation endowment balance currently is \$50,195 and FHP allowable distribution for 2021 is \$1908.54. The Board tabled a decision regarding when to withdraw these funds. Historically, the latest that we have accessed these funds has been in October.
- Report approved by voice vote.

Announcements: None

Old Business:

- **Vegetation management recommendation from Frank Hassler of Good Oak:** The City Parks department has still not completed their review of Good Oak's recommendations. A FHP Board subcommittee met in the park on March 7th to talk about the report and make tentative decisions on how to move forward with implementation. A Pilot or Demonstration area was identified to focus public attention and education on restoration of the oak savannah and woodlands in the Park. The plot includes the already cleared area on the Southwest side of the Overlook adding area north of the Overlook down to the two fireplaces and the newly installed bench. We propose to remove all trees 3" diameter and less leaving only Pagoda Dogwood, Oak and Hickory trees. Once the smaller trees are removed the area could be reviewed for removal of larger undesirable native and non-native trees. Removal of this tree canopy would let sunlight in to the understory to promote growth of oak trees. Removal would be followed by a controlled burn and overseeding. FHP would provide signage to explain the restoration process to the park users.
Tim A has agreed to put together this proposal outlining the pilot project including a species list for what we will be removing. This proposal would be sent to Paul Quinlan, Parks Conservation Supervisor, in order to expedite the review process. In the meantime, FHP would proceed with the current clearing as outlined in our Master Plan.

- **Board Transition:** The transition of Board members would occur at the Annual Meeting in July. Andrew W has identified Phil L as a Sunset Hills representative to the Board and Tim A has spoken with two different Rocky Bluff neighbors who might be interested in a seat on the Board. Tim encouraged other Board members to reach out to neighbors who also may be interested in a seat on the Board.
- **Ranger Hiring:** Paul Q is working with city HR to determine if FHP could possibly offer the ranger position to the chosen 2020 candidate. If approved we would then see if that candidate is interested.
- **Annual Membership meeting:** The main shelter is reserved from **noon-3PM on July 25th** for the Annual meeting. It was decided that we would not have a speaker at this meeting but to couple the business meeting with a to-be-determined family event.
- **2021 grant applications:** The Dane Co Environmental Council grant application has not yet been released. FHP has an opportunity to apply for a grant from Mead & Hunt for up to \$3000. This grant application is expected to come out around July and, if granted, could provide money for a restoration burn.
- **Fundraising Focus:** Still on hold as City Parks has not yet reviewed the Good Oak restoration plan. Table until further information received from the city.
- **Prescribed Burn by Quercus:** Firebreaks are clear due to foot traffic. Quercus plans on burning this spring given a period of dry weather. Quercus has received City Parks approval from Paul Q. for the spring burn.

New Business:

- **Social Media use:** Discussion was tabled due to time but topics to include use of Amazon Smile where a portion of Amazon purchases can be devoted to non-profits, use of the active FHP Instagram account created by Rich J and Sarah. The FHP Facebook age may reach an older demographic but Instagram and Twitter are used by the younger group that we are trying to involve in the Friends group.
- **March work day:** To be held on March 20 with COVID precautions. We will meet at 10AM at the main parking lot for brush clearing

Next Meeting Date: April 8, 2021 6:45PM Via Zoom

Meeting adjourned @ 7:40PM