

**Friends of Hoyt Park**  
**Minutes for Thursday, September 9, 2021 @6:45 PM**  
**Overlook Area Hoyt Park**

**Welcome & Introductions:** Tim Astfalk brought the meeting to order at 6:55PM. Friends attendees included Tim Astfalk, Rich Jablonski, Cheri Swenson, Tim Kessenich, Phil Lindemann, Anne Reis, Richard Adelman, Kate Austin, Ron Harris and Ranger Andy Gricevich.

**Public Comment:** None

**Meeting Minutes:** Minutes for the meeting of July 8, 2021 approved by voice vote.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- **Financials:** As of September 7, 2021 cash on hand was \$28,010. Member contributions totaled \$5,560, up \$3150 from the last report in July.
- **Check approval:** none
- PayPal fees have increased to \$0.49 plus 1.99% per transaction. This would be a fee of \$4.47 on a \$200 donation.
- Report approved by voice vote.

**Election of Board Officers**

- A motion was made by Cheri S, seconded by Kate A and passed unanimously by a quorum of board members to name the following officers:
  - Chair- Rich Jablonski
  - Vice Chair- Phil Lindemann
  - Treasurer- Glenn Teschendorf
  - Secretary- Cheri Swenson
- A motion was made by Cheri S, seconded by Phil L. and passed unanimously by a quorum of board members to:
  - Grant check signing authorization to the new Chair, Rich Jablonski and the new Treasurer, Glenn Teschendorf; and
  - To revoke check signing authorization from the past Chair, Tim Astfalk and the past Treasurer, Tim Kessenich.

**Announcements:**

- **September Workday:** The next workday will be brush cutting and clearing south of the Overlook on Saturday September 18th. Meet at the main parking lot at 10AM. We will work until noon.
- **Recap of July and August workdays, Annual Meeting and Bat survey:**
  - July workday was trail maintenance; 6 participants moved gravel from the main parking lot to park trails to fill in areas that had eroded.
  - August workday was attended by 7 people; brush clearing was conducted south of the Overlook. Brush was cut high for future recut and herbicide application.
  - Annual Meeting/ Summer Fun Day July 25th: Family games included bean bag toss, park scavenger hunt and the popular water balloon catapult. All attendees

were able to sample donated cold treats from Cool Sweet Treats ice cream truck. The business meeting was attended by 19 people. Members thanked board members who had completed their terms; Andrew Wickizer, Tim Kessenich, Tim Astfalk and Richard Aldeman. No new board nominations were put forth by the quorum of members. The slate of new board members nominated by the board were voted in by the attending membership and included Kate Austin, Phil Lindemann, Glenn Teschendorf and Rich Jablonski. Mid-term board members, filling out the board are Cheri Swenson, Anne Reis and Betsy Lane.

- Bat Survey: Six adults and 3 kids attended the August 20th bat survey conducted by DNR staffer and FHP board member Anne Reis. Anne gave a short talk about Wisconsin bats and their habits. The survey was conducted using 3 DNR provided bat detectors which convert the sounds that bats make into sounds the human ears can hear. One detector was an app on an iPad which also made a preliminary identification of bat species. Anne led the group around the open, grassy area down from the main shelter where we heard lots of bats and could then see them flying in the open sky. The evening was greatly enjoyed by all.
- **Ranger report:** Ranger Andy reported on recent projects. As requested by Chad H of city parks, Andy has been working on closing a trail that follows the bluff edge toward the Overlook. Neighbors below had been noticing a lot of water runoff over the top of the bluff. A new, meandering path was created and paved with gravel and the old path was blocked on either end with brush piles and signage indicating that the path was closed. Park users have still been using the closed path; the city plans on doing some landscaping on the old path to discourage its use. Andy has also been pulling resprouts of buckthorn in the areas that have been cleared and has been doing seed collecting in the Ready prairie. He has made another contact with the Wingra school middle school teacher who would like to have her kids do a service project in the park. It was suggested that the class participate in the FHP October workday of prairie seed collection.

#### **Old Business:**

- **Vegetation Management with prescribed burns and selective tree/brush removal:** Concerns regarding the hazards of having FHP volunteers conduct woodland burns have been addressed in an email from Parks Conservation Supervisor Paul Q. Parks would commit to having a Parks staff person on site to lead the burn with 4-6 volunteers as the burn crew, burn volunteers would need to sign a Controlled Burn Volunteer waiver and would be covered by the same liability coverage as the city employees. The first woodland burn would be in the Spring of 2022. There was discussion regarding how to communicate with the neighborhoods surrounding the park regarding the removal of large non-oak trees that will be cut as part of Hoyt Park's approved Vegetation Management plan. It was suggested that we communicate via the FHP newsletter and neighborhood listserv. To be discussed further at the October board meeting.
- **Mead & Hunt Community Cares grant:** This \$2300 grant proposed by Tim A has been awarded to cover Tim's paid volunteer hours and burn equipment to be used in the woodland burns. Thanks to Tim for preparing the grant proposal.

**New Business:**

- **Newsletter for 2021:** To be discussed at the October board meeting for assignments; to be published in November
- **Future meeting locations:** October in the Main shelter and later dates back at Sequoya Library.
- **Resignation of At-Large Board member Betsy L.-** Thank you to Betsy Lane for her service. A new at-large board member will be appointed by the board to take her place.

**Next Meeting Date:** October 14, 2021 6:45PM @ Hoyt Park Main Shelter

**Meeting adjourned @ 8:05 PM**

*/S/ C Swenson* September 14, 2021