

Friends of Hoyt Park
Minutes for Thursday, February 10, 2022 @6:45 PM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Welcome & Introductions: Rich Jablonski brought the meeting to order at 6:50PM. Friends attendees included Cheri Swenson, Tim Astfalk, Tim Kessenich, Anne Bady Raffa, Anne Reis, Kate Austin, and Ron Harris.

Public Comment: None

Meeting Minutes: Minutes for the meeting of January 13, 2022 approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report:

- **Financials:** As of February 10, 2022 cash on hand was \$44,089. Member contributions for the year totaled \$2008.36. The City has not yet billed for the 2021 summer Ranger salary at approximately \$9000.
- **Check approval:** Approved by voice vote were reimbursements of \$18.20 to Vaughan J towards reinstatement of the FHP website by GoDaddy (previously stated as \$149) and \$23.40 to Glenn T for first class stamps.
- Financial report approved by voice vote.

Announcements:

- **Recap on the February 6th Family Sledding Party:** We had a great turnout for our 2022 Family Sledding Party. It was a beautiful winter afternoon with well over 100 attendees. The Friends provided hot chocolate and cider as well as a warm fire in the Hoyt Park Main Shelter. A big thank you to Metcalfe's Market for helping to provide the refreshments and to the neighborhoods adjacent to the park for spreading the word. Kate A agreed to create a shared file folder on Google so that all could share photos that were taken.

Old Business:

- **Bagley Parkway neighbors update:** Rich J summarized the January 30th meeting led by Paul Q, Conservation Supervisor for the City Parks Dept., and attended by representatives of the Bagley Pkwy neighbors, Alder Regina Vidaver (district 5) and representatives of the Friends of Hoyt Park (Rich J, Glenn T, Tim K and Ranger Andy). Paul Q reviewed the history and importance of the City's plan for conservation of Oak woodlands/ savannah within the City and indicated that the work that was being conducted by FOHP volunteers was in line with and approved by City Parks. He addressed specific questions voiced by the Bagley area neighbors and outlined avenues that neighbors of Hoyt Park can use to give input to the City regarding the Parks Dept revision of its "Land Management Plan" for all City parks.
- **Natural Areas Committee Report:** Committee Chair Tim A welcomed back Ranger Andy G for 2022. Andy was hired in 2021 as a seasonal employee and, having received good reviews by the FOHP volunteers he was able to be rehired for 2022 without the need to repost the position. The city will post a position for the second Hoyt Park summer

ranger sometime in February. Ron H volunteered to interview applicants forwarded from Parks HR.

Tentative FOHP 2022 Workday activities were reviewed and approved via voice vote to be posted on the FOHP website and forwarded to City Parks. Workdays will continue to be held on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10am to Noon.

- March- park cleanup and creation of firebreaks for the prairie burns
- April- will be moved to the 4th Saturday to coincide with the City's Earth Day Challenge and will be park cleanup and garlic mustard pull
- May- garlic mustard and dames rocket pull
- June-plant seedlings in the (oak woodland restoration) demonstration area
- July-trail maintenance and sprucing up of the historic park entrance by Hoyt School
- August- fireplace cleaning
- September- Brush removal
- October- Prairie seed collecting
- November- Woodland and prairie seed spreading, garlic mustard pull

A \$2400 grant that was received from Mead & Hunt, will be used in part to purchase \$838 worth of plants/ seedlings and \$325 worth of prairie/ woodland seeds from Agrecol. \$1200 of the grant to be used to purchase equipment for woodland burns will be held on to pending information from City Parks regarding their potential purchase of similar equipment to be shared by all city parks. FOHP received approval from city park Conservation Supervisor Paul Q to burn brush piles in the park. The first burn will be conducted on February 20th under procedures covered by the City Burn Permit as long as the park still has snow cover.

- **Membership Committee Report:** Chair Cheri S reported that an email went out on February 5th inviting 42 members who had last renewed their FOHP membership in 2020 to rejoin FOHP. This email was sent using the reinstated gmail account treasurer3902fhp@gmail.com. The email, along with the Winter Newsletter, should result in increasing our membership donations. As of February 10th, we have had 15 member donations. There is ongoing work to establish a FOHP Google for Nonprofits account allowing Google tools such as file storage and sharing thus removing any personal file storage or email use.
- **Donations/ Logic meeting room:** Kate A contacted several area businesses to ask for donations of goods for the Family Sledding Party. She received positive responses from Metcalfe's Market, who outlined their policy for donations. They ask that requests are sent using their website form 4 weeks in advance of the event. For this event they offered a \$50 gift card since we were not aware of their policy. Lodgic Madison (located next to University Station shopping mall) indicated that they are also a non-profit organization, and do not offer in-kind donations. However they do offer other non-profits up to 4 hours of complementary meeting space, something that we might wish to take advantage of for in-person Board meetings.

New Business:

- **Bagley Neighborhood Rep to Board:** In order to foster communication between the Friends and the neighbors, the Board discussed inviting the Bagley neighbors to join the Board with either a neighborhood representative or an at-large Board member. Rich J will check the bylaws to see what FOHP can offer for positions.
- **Letter of Support for City Parks Dane Co. Environmental Council grant application:** FOHP Board members voted to have FOHP Chair Rich J write a letter in support of City Parks grant application to the Dane County Environmental Council for burn equipment to be shared by all parks in the city.
- **Parks Capital Planning:** Rich J spoke to the Board about making sure that the Friends have input into the 2024 City Parks budget planning process. Hoyt Park is in the unique position of being on the National Register of Historic Places thus, under federal law, legally obligating the city to maintain the park structures to a level of 'historic standards'. The Board would like Parks to focus on repair of the Hoyt Park main entrance wall (on Regent) and repair of the much used fireplaces.
- **Parks 2022 focus:** Rich J spoke to Madison Parks supervisors Paul Q and Chad H about city personnel repairing the pavers at the Main Entrance off Regent St.. City Parks agreed to direct parks personnel to complete this task.
- **Prescribed burn by Quercus:** Quercus has agreed to conduct two separate prescribed prairie burns for the price quoted for a single season burn of both Hoyt Park prairies. The Overlook Prairie will be burned in the Spring and the Ready Prairie will be burned in the Fall of 2022.
- **FOHP Banner for Events:** Cheri S presented an example of a 2.5' x 6' banner to be used at Friends events such as workdays, the annual member meeting and other family events. The banner would let attendees know who was sponsoring the event. Cheri gave an estimated price quote of \$130 plus tax for a 6' banner. Rich J asked that the Membership Committee identify two vendors, obtain pricing and determine wording for the banner and report back at the March meeting.

Next Meeting Date: March 10th, 6:45PM via Zoom

Meeting adjourned @ 8:00 PM

/S/ C Swenson March 11, 2022