

Friends of Hoyt Park
Minutes for Thursday, April 14, 2022 @6:45 PM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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

Public Comment: None

Meeting Minutes: Minutes for the meeting of March 10, 2022 were passed with no corrections.

Treasurer's Report:

- **Financials:** As of April 14, 2022 cash on hand was \$35,345. Member contributions and employer matches totaled \$3100, up \$225 from last month.
- **Check approval:** Cheri S asked for and received board approval of up to \$50 to purchase a banner from Signs.com to be used at FHP events.
- Financial report, presented by Cheri S. in place of Glenn T, was discussed and unanimously agreed upon.

Announcements:

- **Earth Day Event (Madison Parks):** FHP April Volunteer Work Day has been moved to April 23 to coincide with City Parks Earth Day challenge. 10 volunteers have signed up on the city parks website to work at Hoyt Park. Tim A asked for board member volunteers to help with a large number of work day participants. The task will be invasive weed pulling; garlic mustard and dames rocket.
- **Family Fun Day/ Annual meeting:** Set for Sunday July 31, 2022. Cheri S sent a Neighborhood and Community Event application to Kelly Post at City Parks reserving the Main shelter from 10AM to 3PM.
- **New Board Member:** Chris Wendt from Bagley Pkwy was welcomed to the FHP Board as an at-large member to take the place vacated by Betsy L.

Old Business:

- **Natural Areas Committee Report:** Top candidate Lee DeMet has accepted the offer for the second FHP summer ranger position. Ron H and city parks staff interviewed 5 great candidates. The Friends welcome Ranger Lee to the park and look forward to getting to know him. City Parks has extended a \$0.50 per hour bonus payment to both Ranger Andy and Ranger Lee. This bonus pay will be paid out of city funds.
Tim A reported that the committee met in the park on April 10th. Tim A is looking for volunteers to lead the May and July workdays. There will be no more clearing at the border of the park that backs up to Bagley Pkwy. FHP will continue to remove invasives such as Garlic Mustard and Dames Rocket. Ranger Andy will follow up with Paul Q. (city parks conservation supervisor) about buffer plantings along Bagley such as woodland plants, not woody bushes.

The Committee would like to buy seeds for fall/winter planting in the area south of the Overlook where the large Norway maple was removed. Ranger Andy is getting his chainsaw certification and will cut buckthorn on the lower bluff spoil piles, in the 2020 demo area NE of the Overlook and on the right side of the service drive by the Ready Prairie.

- **Membership Committee Report:** Cheri S requested and received board approval for up to \$50 for the FHP banner to be displayed at FHP events. Progress is being slowly made on the implementation of a shared platform for email, file storage and creation. FHP has been recognized as a valid non-profit and hoytpark.org domain has been accepted to be owned by FHP. A Google Work space has been set up providing no-cost access to file storage space, shared document/ spreadsheet templates, email, and virtual meeting software. @hoytpark.org emails have been set up for Board officers and a FHP volunteer coordinator (ex. chair@hoytpark.org). Cheri is currently investigating how to bring all services on-line for current board members.
- **Annual Meeting:** The main shelter at the park has been reserved from 10 AM to 3PM on Sunday July 31. The Family Fun Day activities (TBD) will begin at noon with the Business Meeting at 2:30PM. Cheri S agreed to be the lead on the event with help from a co-lead to be named. It was decided that we would NOT have a speaker this year. Details for the event to be worked on in May and June.
- **Regent St Neighborhood representative on Board:** Rich J will recontact the chair of the Regent St Neighborhood Assoc. to check on interest.
- **Website Ad Hoc Committee:** Phil L indicated that the current website host GoDaddy is solid. It was suggested that two board members should have access to login credentials (to be stored on the Google shared drive) and that our goal would be to pay for the service from the FHP account, not a personal credit card. Rich will ask Webmaster Vaughan J if the payment is still being made from his personal credit card. If so, can FHP investigate whether the payment process can be made directly from the FHP accounts.

New Business:

- **First Unitarian Society Volunteers:** Tim A informed the Board that 8 teens and 2 adult leaders participated in a Dames Rocket pull from 10 am - noon on April 10th. Thanks to the volunteers who came out and to Tim for hosting the group.

Next Meeting Date: May 12, 2022 6:45PM via Zoom

Meeting adjourned @7:43 PM

/S/ **C Swenson** May 16, 2022