

News and Activities

BOARD CHAIR

I know chairperson's reports always start out with "We've had such a busy year" but honestly, we have!

One of our most important accomplishments is a remarkably detailed and thorough long-range plan for our Park. It took the committee untold hours of time, but it is a document that will help guide the Friends group for many years. We'll use its information to help structure work for our summer ranger and to inform decision making for future projects. We are very grateful to the committee for all their work.

Our other big accomplishment is the completion of the interpretive trail. It's great! The signs are so well designed, and graphics and text are educational and fun!

In January, our Friends group was featured at the Parks Volunteer Recognition night sponsored by the Madison Parks Department. Phil Smith put together a wonderful power point presentation of old photographs and snapshots of present activities. I used it to talk about park history, what the Friends has been doing lately, and how our group connects with other community members and groups.

In December, we had our holiday party. Our speaker was former governor, and former secretary of the DNR, Tony Earl. Diahann Lohr, the graphic designer who developed our trail signs, attended as well as about 45 members of the Friends group. It's always a cold walk to the University Club, but always worth it!

I have truly enjoyed being the chairperson of the FHP. I think we have accomplished a great deal in the last two years-not because I was chairperson, but because we have such a hard working group of people who care about the Park. I look forward to working on new projects and accomplishing even more in the coming years with my fellow Friends.

Deborah Lawson, Chairperson

TREASURY

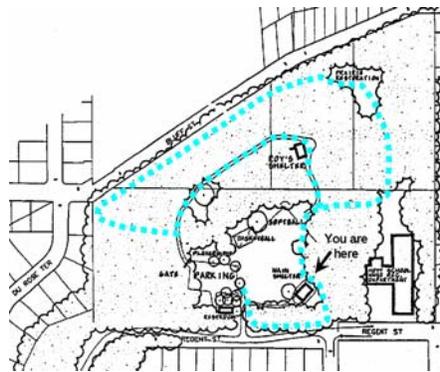
The balance in our account as of February 28 is \$4,297.40. The balance in our Madison Community Foundation Fund is \$14,046.36.

Terry Bloom, Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We have 163 paid member households for 2005. We welcome all of our new members and appreciate the renewals of present and past members. Please bring your friends and neighbors to the annual meeting.

Cindy Hoffland, Membership Committee



A FUTURE PLAN

The 1995 Master Plan for Hoyt Park has guided volunteers and Parks Division staff as they worked together to improve the park and increase the pleasure of its users. After 10 years we've reached almost all the goals, proof of the value of the Master Plan. Now it's time for an update.

Since July, the Long-Range Planning Committee and the FHP Board, with input from Parks Division staff, have looked toward the future of the park, solicited ideas, and sorted through options. The Future Plan, replete with large and small projects and continuing maintenance, will be available at the Annual Meeting. We've given greater attention to the appearance of the Sunset Point Overlook and the Pedestrian Entry near Hoyt School.

Do come to the Annual Meeting and pick up the summary or the complete plan. The maps, created by Bill Tishler, and table of priorities will be posted at the kiosk.

Helen Baldwin, Plan Committee

DNR URBAN FORESTRY GRANT

We've completed the work for our 2nd DNR Urban Forestry Grant and have submitted a final report and reimbursement request. Woodland restoration and the interpretive trail were the main projects for this grant.

The woodland restoration project consisted of 3 areas of woodland management:

1. physical removal of invasive species only
2. physical removal of invasives followed by herbicide treatment of cut stumps
3. chemical girdling of standing trees and shrubs

Our interpretive trail is now complete. The trail starts near the main shelter and then circles down around the Bluff Street quarries and back up through the prairie. Seven signs along the trail describe Hoyt Park related urban forestry issues, a diagram of the quarry face geology, and Hoyt Park history.

Our woodland management program and interpretive trail greatly adds to the overall Park experience.

Brent McCown, Grant Coordinator

PRAIRIE COMMITTEE

When you walk the newly marked Hoyt Park interpretive trail, be sure to stop and enjoy the Ready Prairie. You will learn how this beautiful natural area was created on the floor of the old City Quarry. And, if your feet get tired, you can relax on one of the fine benches built by Boy Scout Troop 15 and Eagle Scout James Campbell.

We are planning a controlled burn in the prairie this spring, so by summer the prairie flowers should be spectacular. When you visit, bring your camera and watch for butterflies

Please join us for our annual prairie-planting day on Saturday, May 20, 2006. We've ordered several flats of plants from the UW Arboretum plant sale.

Tim Kessenich, Prairie Committee

SUMMER RANGER

Relying on continued generous financial support from our members, we will hire a park ranger for the upcoming summer. The summer park ranger not only helps to maintain the natural beauty of the park, but also contributes greatly to the quality of life in the residential neighborhoods surrounding Hoyt Park. The ranger's daily presence helps eliminate much of the vandalism and discourages unsavory behavior in the park. The Friends pay all of the ranger's salary, our biggest expenditure for the year. So please, consider giving a little extra this year to help support the park ranger and other valuable work done by the Friends of Hoyt Park.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

As in past years, 2005 marked a great volunteer effort by the members of The Friends of Hoyt Park. On Saturday mornings from April to August, you donated hundreds of hours with the goal of improving the park's prairie and woodlands. In addition, you volunteered many hundreds of additional hours on special projects that were undertaken this year: Leopold benches; trail and trail signs; major improvements to the park entrance; new kiosk near the main parking lot; and updated long-range plan.

Recognition of your dedication to Hoyt Park occurred in January at the Madison City Parks Department annual Volunteer Recognition Event at Olbrich Gardens highlighting the work of FHP. Board chair Deborah Lawson gave a heartfelt presentation highlighting our accomplishments over the past few years. We hope that 2006 brings a continued commitment to keep Hoyt Park one of Madison's premier recreational areas.

Joanne Lenburg, Lucy Brown, Phil Smith

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY

As you know, without your membership dues, we couldn't exist. And to go above and beyond mere existence, i.e. to put in trails, benches, our beautiful new kiosk, bat houses, and have a summer ranger, we need extra money. So please, could you consider giving more than the regular membership dues payment? This money will be used to make what is already perhaps Madison's most beautiful park into something that is safer, better cared for, and more inviting.

John Elliott, Fundraising Committee

WORK PARTIES & COMING EVENTS:

Please join us at one of our upcoming events.

ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, April 20,
6:45 – 9:00 p.m.
Hoyt School gym

EARTH DAY 2006

Saturday, April 22,
10:00 – 12:00 a.m.
Main parking lot

We will remove trash and pull garlic mustard. Bring gloves to protect your hands.

SUMMER PICNIC

Sunday, June 18,
12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Main shelter

WORK DAYS

10:00-12:00 a.m.
April 22 – Earth Day pick-up
May 20 – prairie planing
June 17 – mulch trees
July 15 – buckthorn removal
Aug 19 – prairie maintenance
Sept 16 – woodland invasives
Oct 21 – mulch trees
Nov 18 - buckthorn

NATURE WALKS

Wednesday mornings,
8:00 a.m. as weather permits
Main parking lot

BOARD MEETINGS

Second Thursday of the month, 6:45-9:00 p.m.
Sequoia Library
April 13
May 11
June 8
July 13
September 14
October 12
November 9

FULL MOON/OWL WALK

The Full Moon/Owl Walk on Sunday February 12 drew over 50 enthusiastic people of all ages. We did not see the moon nor hear owls, but we did enjoy a warm fire, hot chocolate, cookies, and an interesting informative owl talk by arboretum naturalist, Sylvia Marek, followed by a walk in the woods.

Nancy Dott, Events Committee

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following people have agreed to continue on the Board for another two-year term: Tim Kessenich, Terry Bloom, John Elliott, Deborah Lawson.

T-SHIRTS

FHP t-shirts will be available at the Annual Meeting.

- Adult long-sleeve - \$20
- Adult short-sleeve - \$16
- Children short-sleeve - \$12

Joanne Lenburg is resigning from the board after several years of dedicated service. We nominate Jean MacCubbin to serve in her position on the board.

Neighborhood Representatives continuing are:

- Vanchamasshe – Ron Harris
- Radio Park-Sunset Hills – Helen Baldwin
- Regent – Tom Quirk
- Sunset Village – Brent McCown



Detach and mail with your check



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual dues cover one year's membership running from April to April

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Please check appropriate boxes:

- I want to be contacted for volunteering by phone or email
- Individual Membership \$15 Ranger Fund \$_____
- Household membership \$25 Endowment Fund \$_____
- General Fund \$_____

Thank you for becoming a member of Friends of Hoyt Park, Inc. All paid memberships are voting members. The FHP is a non-profit organization. Donations above membership dues are tax-deductible. Please send and make checks payable to:
Friends of Hoyt Park, Inc.
P O Box 5542
Madison, WI 53705