

**Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**March 8, 2017**  
**U of M Environmental Interpretive Center**  
**Dearborn, MI 48128**

**Directors Present:** Keith Armitage (KA), Mike Darga (MD), Dr. Orin Gelderloos (OG), Anne Naszradi (AN), Susan Thompson (ST), Laura Wagner (LW) (6 total)

**On Conference call:** Alice Bailey (AB), Al VanKerckhove (AVK), Emily Lowery (EL) (3 total)

**Directors Excused:** Andrew Hoffman (AH), Brandy Siediaczek (BS), Zachary Lovall (ZL) (3 total)

**Directors Absent:** Scot Martin (SM), Dave Norwood (DN), Chester Marvin (CM) (3 total)

**Staff Members Present:** Marie McCormick (MMC), Karen Hannah (KH), Cyndi Ross (CR), Sally Petrella (SP) (4 total)

1) CALL TO ORDER

Recording Secretary ST called the meeting to order at 5:10pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda made by KA, seconded by LW. Motion carried

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. Minutes from February 8, 2017. Motion to approve made by KA, seconded by EL. Motion carried

4) REPORTS (also refer to reports in Board packet)

a. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee had their first phone conference with MMC and are scheduled to hold these on a monthly basis

b. Executive Director

Refer to written report for additional updates

Reorganizing FOTR office- reassessing space and professionalizing office look

2600 “likes” for Facebook campaign

FOTR logo stickers are now available; also vehicle magnets

Attending the National Watershed and Stormwater Conference in Baltimore, Maryland

All staff is going to attend River Rally in Grand Rapids, May 8-11, 2017

c. Rouge Education Project (REP)

Refer to written report for updates

d. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)

22 people turned out for the Rouge Rescue kickoff

The date for 2017 Rouge Rescue is May 20, 2017

\$1000 contribution to the computer fund

Two Frog and toad survey workshops so far-40-45 persons at each. A Free Press article on the survey is going to be in the Sunday edition

\$3000 in LUSH grant funding is going toward tech upgrades

Team Leader Training is April 1 and the Spring bug hunt April 22.

Fully funded for fish surveys and reporting (\$5000 from the WSU Water Center)

e. Membership Committee

Scheduling a Membership Committee conference call in March

f. Fund Development Committee

Met last month after the board meeting- the first one with MMC

Corporate solicitation, Rouge Cruise, Free Press runs, and Crowdrise effort are ongoing. The FeelGood Tap is a new effort and will move forward with participation

Goal to target specific industries for corporate solicitation

August 8 is the date for the Rouge Cruise

g. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. January 2017

Motion to approve January 2017 financial report made by KA, seconded by OG. Motion carried

There is a surplus of \$554 above cash on hand amount, and brokerage is OK. KA disagrees with the brokerage assessment and is recommending looking at investments in both accounts. The settlement account is the largest single account FOTR has and may benefit from professional management. Recommend discussion at the next Finance Committee meeting.

The December financials are updated and the audit is going ahead

5) NEW BUSINESS (President MD arrived and is now chairing the meeting)

a. Executive Committee make-up; Member- at- Large

Executive Committee starting to meet a week after the board meeting

Discussion of adding a fifth member to the Executive Committee on an ad-hoc basis. There is no mention of a fifth member in the by-laws. The Member- at-Large could be a lead-in to future leadership position

This item will be on the board meeting agenda for next month

The board icebreaker event at Liberty Street Brewing Company was successful

b Board training

MMC gave a presentation on Board Committee structure

Recommendations: change title of the Task Forces, and change nominating ad-hoc to a board development committee. Name changes will be finalized in April

Discussed having non-board members on committees

Paco Ollervides from River Network doing training at the June board meeting and is open for topic suggestions

c. FOTR/ARC Merger Next Steps

Executive Director MMC is meeting with MD, ARC staff, and former ED Aimee LaLonde-Norman to get up to speed on the merger. There is unused ERB funding available that may be used to facilitate merger.

d. Additional issues from the floor

Discussion about the Annual Meeting. There is no election and will be the program reports, financial report, and Best Friends of the Rouge awards

Board retreat: consider a Board retreat and the possibility of hiring a facilitator. Send MMC suggestions of where the retreat should be and activities for board building

e. Warren Valley Golf Course

Jack Smiley guest for the discussion. He encourages the board to oppose the sale of the Warren Valley Golf Course. The sale may cost a net loss in revenue to the County in recreation grants. Forward talking points on the issue to MD and a letter will be drafted and sent to CEO Evans, and the Wayne County Commissioners

h. Sign thank you notes

Board members signed thank you notes

Board moved into closed session to discuss budget amendments for first quarter 2017, approved by ST, seconded by AN. Motion carried. Budget amendments approved.

7) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by AN, seconded by KA. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson  
FOTR Secretary