

Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2015
U of M Environmental Interpretive Center
Dearborn, MI 48128

Directors Present: Keith Armitage (KA), Alice Bailey (AB), Mike Darga (MD), Heather Esper (HE), Andrew Hoffman (AH) via conference call, Chester Marvin (CM), Carla Rigsby (CR2), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), Susan Thompson (ST), Steve Weis (SW) (10 total)

Directors Excused: Adam Cloutier (AC), Mike McNulty (MM), Dave Norwood (DN), William Stone (WS) (4 total)

Directors Absent: Sharon Oliver-Merchant (SOM) (1 total)

Staff Members Present: Aimee LaLonde-Norman (ALN), Sally Petrella (SP) (2total)

1) CALL TO ORDER – President Michael Darga called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda made by ST, second by CM, motion carried.

3) ENDOWMENT AND PLANNED GIVING PRESENTATION

Randy Ross, Manager, Philanthropic Services Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan

Mr. Moss provided a presentation about the Community Foundation. The organization was founded in 1984, and has over \$750 million in assets and manages 1250 funds. The board is 57 members and a subcommittee directs the investments. The fund aims to earn returns of 6-8 percent, and last year's return was 3.6 percent.

An initial \$10,000 contribution is needed to set up an endowment fund. There are 0.05 percent administrative fees and 0.07 percent reporting fees associated with the endowment fund. The foundation provides annual statements for the endowment. The foundation would handle estate issues associated with the endowment if they arise in the settlement of an estate of a donor.

There is no limit on the endowment size.

The Community Foundation will watchdog funds if there is a merger of organizations to ensure that the funds are handled with original purpose.

Mr. Moss provided handout information on the Community Foundation and several reports.

The information about the Community Foundation is referred to the Finance Committee for further consideration.

4) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. Minutes March 11, 2015

Motion to approve minutes made by BS, second by HE, motion carried.

5) REPORTS

a. Executive Director Report

i. Rouge Education Project (REP)

ii. Volunteer Monitoring (PI)/River Restoration

b. Membership Committee Report

The next Explore the Rouge event is April 10, 2015- Who's Calling?

c. Fund Development Committee

d. Finance Committee/Treasurer's Report

Motion to accept Treasurer's report from February 2015 made by ST, seconded by CM. Motion carried.

i. Budget amendment updates discussed

Motion to approve budget amendments made by CM, seconded by KA. Motion carried.

6) NEW BUSINESS

a. Reorganization investigation

The second reorganization exploration meeting was last week. Most of the meeting focused on “getting to know you” and a portion of time spent on potential organization models. The due diligence of both the ARC and FOTR, and other reorganization meeting documents, will be made available to the board via Google Docs

b. Raffle

Tickets are being distributed for the Kayak raffle. The flyer is online, and there are 400 tickets out in circulation now.

c. Board Training

AB, ALN and ST will select topics for discussion at a future meeting

d. Additional issues from the floor

SP reported on the Doc Fletcher canoe trip on the Lower/Main Rouge River Tuesday April 14. The trip is part of research into a canoe route to be included in a new book. This is the third Rouge River trip to be featured in a paddling book.

Phone-A-Thon- all pledges went out and these persons will be contacted as a follow up

f. Sign thank you letters/individual updates

7) CLOSED SESSION

Employee Manual/Policy Updates

Discussed Employee Manual/Policy updates in regard to Paid Time Off (PTO) benefits for FOTR employees. Motion to “grandfather” three employees to permit them to allow current PTO benefits as granted previously, now in excess of the FOTR Employee Manual/ Policies made by BS, seconded by ST. Motion carried.

PTO Note: The annual PTO benefit for these employees varies up to 240 hours, with the maximum accrual up to 240 hours. Employees receiving these PTO benefits will receive a memorandum outlining their individual benefit and noting that this benefit will remain in effect until further notice. A copy of this memorandum will be placed in their employee file.

8) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by KA, second by ST, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson
FOTR Secretary