

Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2015
U of M Environmental Interpretive Center
Dearborn, MI 48128

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

Directors Excused: Keith Armitage (KA), Adam Cloutier (AC), Mike McNulty (MM), Dave Norwood (DN) (4 total)

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

Staff Members Present: Aimee LaLonde-Norman (ALN) (1 total)

1) CALL TO ORDER – President Michael Darga called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. Minutes June 10, 2015

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

4) REPORTS

a. Executive Director

FOTR received a gift of \$2500 from the Michigan Environmental Council in honor of Bill Craig. This is the largest single gift of this summer.

FOTR is gearing up for year-end giving and the 30th Anniversary coming up

Met with MDEQ Director Dan Wyant at a stakeholders meeting and discussed addressing Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) and legacy pollutants in the Rouge River watershed

Attended the National Trails Forum in July held in Ann Arbor.

The fifth reorganization meeting was held in July

Attended the GLRI grant planning committee meeting

FOTR is transitioning from the UM-D server to Google sites

FOTR is participating in the Gardner-White Charity Challenge Opportunity

A print newsletter is going out in September 2015

There is a mentoring opportunity with organizational change with another nonprofit offered at River Rally

i. Rouge Education Project (REP)

25 schools participated in spring monitoring this year

New schools are interested in partnering with REP and PI in streamlining training

i. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)

There are 13 residential rain gardens being installed in the City of Detroit

Green Infrastructure workshops are coming up in September and October 2015

Fall bug hunt is coming up in October 2015, fish surveys are ongoing and there is some Frog and Toad survey data collected by volunteers this year

Work on NPS and GLRI grants ongoing

b. Membership Update/Committee

The Dragonfly walk was held at UM-D in July and 21 persons attended

Committee is planning for the 2015/2016 Annual meeting

The Membership Committee is meeting after the board meeting August 12, 2015

c. Fund Development Committee

No meeting coming up

The Major Gift committee is August 26, 2015, and a review of the corporate gift list is ongoing

There is a committee meeting scheduled for after the September Board meeting

d. Finance Committee/Treasurer

Discussed May and June financial reports

The Finance Committee is meeting later this month to discuss the endowment and expense trending

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. FOTR 30th Anniversary

Considering ideas for the 30th Anniversary for next year

b. Board Training

Encourage Board members to attending NonProfit Network training on September 30, 2015

c. Additional issues from the floor

d. Sign thank you letters/individual updates

6) CLOSED SESSION

a. FOTR-ARC Reorganization Investigation

Motion to enter closed session made by WS, seconded by HE, motion carried

Review of the latest reorganization meeting (July 23, 2015), ARC PowerPoint and update of discussions

The group agrees to move forward with continuing reorganization discussions

b. Bylaw Review

i. Bylaws are attached at the end of this packet for review

Changes in bylaws need membership approval, either at an Annual Meeting or Special meeting

If there are issues, comments, and concerns, Board members are encouraged to contact ALN or MD

Motion to end closed session made by ST, seconded by CM, motion carried

7) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by SW, second by WS, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson

FOTR Secretary