

Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2017
U of M Environmental Interpretive Center
Dearborn, MI 48128

Directors Present: Mike Darga (MD), Alice Bailey (AB), Orin Gelderloos (OG), Zachary Lovall (ZL), Emily Lowery (EL), Scot Martin (SM), Chester Marvin (CM), Anne Naszradi (AN), Dave Norwood (DN), Brandy Siediaczek (BS), Susan Thompson (ST), Al VanKerckhove (AVK), Laura Wagner (LW) (13 total)

On Conference call: Andrew Hoffman (AH) (1 total)

Directors Excused: None (0 total)

Directors Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Marie McCormick (MMC), Karen Hannah (KH), Erin Cassady (EC), (3 total)

Guests: Paco Ollervides (River Network), Randall Ross (Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan)

1) CALL TO ORDER

President MD called the meeting to order at 5:11pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda made by CM, seconded by AN. Motion carried

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. Minutes from June 17, 2017. Motion to approve made by AN, seconded by CM. Motion carried

4) COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN (CFSEM) ENDOWMENT FUND

Randall Ross presented information about endowment funds. Endowment funds are permanent. There is expert oversight of the funds. Online giving, gift acceptance, and planned giving are available. There is a 0.5% administration fee annually and a growth target of 6-8%. The Board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of an endowment.

Motion to establish a \$100,000 endowment with CFSEM made by ST, seconded by LW. Motion carried.

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

a. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (EC) is scheduled to hold calls on a monthly basis

The EC conference call was July 19- updates on items discussed later in tonight's meeting agenda

b. Executive Director

Refer to report highlights

c. Rouge Education Project (REP)

d. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)

e. Membership Committee

f. Fund Development Committee

The Fund Development Committee meeting is after tonight's board meeting

The Rouge Cruise was the best cruise ever. It was sold out!

g. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. May and June 2017

Motion to approve May and June 2017 financial report made by CM, seconded by AN. Motion carried.

6) NEW BUSINESS

a. Board Retreat Location

Retreat planned for the Howell Nature Center September 21, 2017

A catered dinner is planned and no staff is going to be present except for MMC.

i. "Task Force" AN is volunteering to help the Executive Committee plan the event

b. FOTR-ARC Merger Next Steps

Options: FOTR merge into ARC or vice-versa. Options that do not solve anything are off the table.

A Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) is a model to consider. There are frustrations voiced with the merger concerns raised by the ARC. There is a meeting scheduled at the end of the month to view the "big picture" of what joint operations would look like.

c. Clean Water Act Repeal

Discussion of FOTR joining a list of organizations opposing the repeal of a portion of the Clean Water Act referring to the "Waters of the State" definition. Healing Our Waters is sponsoring this petition. Item is tabled until more information on the issue and how it impacts FOTR's mission is obtained

d. Additional Issues from the Floor

CM announced that this is his last meeting as a FOTR board member

EL is going to be moving out of the area soon and moving to California

MMC is expecting a baby boy and is due in January 2018

7) CLOSED SESSION

Motion to enter/exit closed session made by CM, seconded by AVK. Motion carried.

Budget amendments discussed

8) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by ST, seconded by AN. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:52pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson

FOTR Secretary

Thank you to Laura Wagner for beginning the meeting minutes