Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
January 13, 2016  
U of M Environmental Interpretive Center  
Dearborn, MI  48128

Directors Present: Keith Armitage (KA), Alice Bailey (AB), Adam Cloutier (AC), Mike Darga (MD), Heather Esper (HE), Chester Marvin (CM), Mike McNulty (MM), Dave Norwood (DN), Carla Rigsby (CR2), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), William Stone (WS), Susan Thompson (ST), Steve Weis (SW) (14 total)

Directors Excused: Andrew Hoffman (AH) (1 total)

Directors Absent: none (0 total)

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

1) CALL TO ORDER – President Michael Darga called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Motion to approve the agenda made by ST, second by CM, motion carried.

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES
a. Minutes December 9, 2015
Motion to approve minutes made by AC, second by SW, motion carried

4) REPORTS
a. Executive Director
Signed the MDEQ rain garden grant today
Marine Pollution Control continued its stewardship in 2016
DENSO donated a new vehicle to FOTR
Submitted operations grant to ERB Foundation
The newsletter has almost paid for itself with donations generated post mailing
The online appeal raised $1000 this month
The Rouge Area of Concern (AOC) conference is being held on University of Michigan- Dearborn campus March 2 and 3, 2016. FOTR is going to be involved the conference
The new interns are going to be starting soon

i. Rouge Education Project (REP)
REP will be celebrating 29 years; received over $46,000 in funding

ii. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)
Rouge Rescue is coming up May 21, 2016
Rain Gardens to the Rescue project is ongoing
The ARC is funding benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring through 2016.
The winter stonefly search is February 13, 2016
The Frog and Toad Survey workshop is February 27, 2016
The Rouge River water trail meetings are ongoing and a water trail map is being drafted

b. Membership Update/Committee
c. Fund Development Committee
The Fund Development Committee is meeting tonight after the board meeting
MM is volunteering to chair the Rouge Brew Cruise committee
FOTR was selected as a charity partner for the Detroit Free Press International Marathon need to begin planning efforts

d. Finance Committee/Treasurer
   i. November 2015
   November/December 2015 break even and deficit stopped growing
   Motion to approve November 2015 report made by BS, seconded by ST, motion carried.
   ii. Trend analysis- discussion on hold until next board meeting

5) NEW BUSINESS
a. 30th Anniversary
   i. Letter from the River
   Discussed and AC will make edits
   ii. Branding
   Franco provided draft 30th Anniversary logos in different color schemes, styles and fonts. The board selected several and ALN will provide this feedback to Franco

b. Annual Conflicts of Interest review
   Conflict of Interest forms distributed

c. Board training

d. Additional issues from the floor
   Suggestion to check new FOTR website for accessibility

e. Sign thank you letters

6) Closed Session
a. Reorganization Investigation
   i. Stakeholder feedback
   The ARC meeting is planned for mid-March 2016
   FOTR has its Annual Meeting scheduled for April 13, 2016
   If both parties agree to the merger, then the 12-18 month transition period begins
   The ERB funding is expended
   There is $35,000 in restricted funds from ERB Foundation if the merger is approved moves into the transition period
   Stakeholder feedback was discussed
   ii. 2016 Officers
   Motion to maintain current officers made by AC, seconded by DN. Motion carried.

7) ADJOURNMENT
Motion to adjourn made by DN, second by MM, motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 6:59pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson
FOTR Secretary