Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2017
U of M Environmental Interpretive Center
Dearborn, MI  48128

**Directors Present:** Keith Armitage (KA), Alice Bailey (AB), Mike Darga (MD), Dr. Orin Gelderloos (OG), Emily Lowery (EL), Chester Marvin (CM), Dave Norwood (DN), Brandy Siediaczek (BS), Susan Thompson (ST), Laura Wagner (LW) (9 total)

**Directors Excused:** Andrew Hoffman (AH), Zachary Lovall (ZL), Scot Martin (SM) (4 total)

**Directors Absent:** Al VanKerckhove (AVK) (1 total)

**Staff Members Present:** Karen Hannah (KH), Erin Cassady (EC), Cyndi Ross (CR), Sally Petrella (SP), Marie McCormick (MMC) via videoconference (5 total)

1) **CALL TO ORDER**
President MD called the meeting to order at 5:08pm

2) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Motion to approve agenda made by ST, seconded by KA. Motion carried

3) **APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**
   a. Minutes from November 9, 2016. Motion to approve made by KA, seconded by DN. Motion carried
   Note: No minutes from the December 2016 Board meeting (informational only-no quorum)

4) **BOARD OFFICER ELECTIONS**
Nominations and election results attached

5) **REPORTS** (also refer to reports in Board packet)
   a. Executive Committee
      i. Executive Director Introduction (via video link)
      New FOTR Executive Director Marie McCormick introduced to Board, introductions of all Board and staff
      MMC videoconferenced with staff and is starting with FOTR full time

   b. Rouge Education Project (REP)
      REP report complete and sent out to sponsors
      10 persons to return for teacher refresher course
      All new grant applications in; Costco grant denied

   c. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)
      Planning on Rouge Rescue 2017 and the kick off meeting is March 7
      Four bike, bus and walking tours coming up this year to tour Detroit Green Infrastructure projects
      Posting is up for the River Restoration position vacancy. It is a two-year position and there are a few applicants at this time. Meeting with MDEQ personnel to get QAPP approved for the social survey
      ARC Green Infrastructure project may have FOTR perform Grow Zone maintenance this year
      Obtaining funding for the Frog and Toad survey available from LUSH and GM Foundation. These funds also for tech upgrades for the office/field. Three Frog and Toad workshops are scheduled for 2017 beginning in February.
      95 people signed up for the stonefly search; all three local watershed groups doing their searches on the same day
      Holiday charity challenge “A Penny for the Rouge” netted approximately $2000
d. Membership Update/Committee

e. Fund Development Committee
Start meetings for 2017 after the February Board meeting

f. Finance Committee/Treasurer
   i. October 2016
   ii. November 2017
Motion to approve November 2016 financial report made by BS, seconded by ST. Motion carried
   ii. 2017 budget
Form 990 is on website; audit is up to federal standards
Motion to approve budget made by AC, seconded by KA. Motion carried

6) NEW BUSINESS
a. Staff Issues/Concerns

b. Annual Conflicts of Interest review
Board reminded to complete forms

c. Committee Assignments
Board members are required to serve on two committees. Communicate committee preferences to KH

d. FOTR/ARC Merger Next Steps
Executive Director hired and will be introduced to the ARC and be brought up to speed before starting to work on merger details

e. FOTR website accessibility
Review of website pages to for accessibility is ongoing

f. Board training
Board members are encouraged to suggest webinars, items of interest pertaining to board development

g. Additional issues from the floor

h. Sign thank you notes
   Sympathy card for Spencer Brown, a long time volunteer who passed away December 2, 2016

7) ADJOURNMENT
Motion to adjourn made by DN, seconded by KA. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:04pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson
FOTR Secretary
JANUARY 11, 2017
FOTR Officer Nominations/Election

Nomination accepted: (A)
Nomination declined: (D)

President
Michael Darga: (A)
Alice Bailey (D)

Michael Darga accepted the nomination and elected President by acclamation

Vice-President
Alice Bailey: (A)
Keith Armitage (A)
Susan Thompson: (D)

Election results: Alice Bailey elected as Vice-President

Secretary
Susan Thompson: (A)
Scot Martin- not present in order to accept nomination
Brandy Siedlaczek: (D)
Keith Armitage: (D)

Susan Thompson accepted the nomination and elected Secretary by acclamation

Treasurer
Andrew Hoffman: (A)*
Brandy Siedlaczek: (D)
Keith Armitage: (D)
Susan Thompson: (D)

Andrew Hoffman accepted the nomination and elected Treasurer by acclamation

* Notified officers before meeting of nomination acceptance