

Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
April 12, 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), Zachary Lovall (ZL), Emily Lowery (EL), Scot Martin (SM), Chester Marvin (CM), Anne Naszradi (AN), Brandy Siediaczek (BS), Susan Thompson (ST), Laura Wagner (LW) (12 total)

On Conference call: None

Directors Excused: Andrew Hoffman (AH), Al VanKerckhove (AVK), Dave Norwood (DN) (3 total)

Directors Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Marie McCormick (MMC), Karen Hannah (KH) (2 total)

1) CALL TO ORDER

President MD called the meeting to order at 5:16pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. Minutes from March 8, 2017. Motion to approve made by KA, seconded by CM. Motion carried

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

a. Executive Committee

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

This month's call discussed the Warren Valley Golf Course, communications, and Executive Committee Member-at-Large.

b. Executive Director

Received first sponsorship for the Free Press Marathon

The staff is getting new computers and upgraded software for desktops/laptops.

The FOTR Facebook page is getting an increase in "likes"

30 applicants received for FOTR NPS Coordinator; an applicant is being offered the position.

Attended the National Stormwater Conference in Maryland

c. Rouge Education Project (REP)

Pending grant from Masco was denied

d. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)

Rouge Rescue coming up May 20.

A "strawman" proposal was prepared to assist in enhancing stormwater drainage credits in the City of Detroit.

New stormwater fees are being rolled out in 2018.

Spring bug hunt is April 22.

e. Membership Committee

Membership Committee meeting is scheduled for April 19, 5:30pm

f. Fund Development Committee
Committee meeting is tonight after the Board meeting

g. Finance Committee/Treasurer
i. February 2017

Motion to approve February 2017 financial report made by ST, seconded by SM. Motion carried
Finance Committee met March 6 and the investment portfolio discussed. The next meeting is May 5. Looking for some additional finance committee members

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. Executive Committee make-up; Member- at- Large

Two Board members are interested in Executive Committee Member-at-Large position, Keith Armitage and Laura Wagner. Both gave a brief background and why they are interested. Laura Wagner was elected after secret ballot vote

b. PI/REP Task Force to Advisory Committees

Motion to rename the PI/REP Task Forces to Advisory Committees made by Laura Wagner, seconded by OG
Motion carried.

c Board training

MMC gave a presentation on the Board's role in communications and the FOTR communications chain

d. FOTR/ARC Merger Next Steps

Plan to get integration Task Forces together to form brand new board to draft mission and by-laws and strategic plan for a new non-profit organization. Both groups will identify 5 members. Then this group will select five members from governmental agencies.

e. Additional issues from the floor

f. Sign thank you notes

Board members signed thank you notes

h. Warren Valley Golf Course update

Wayne County is backing away from the sale of the golf course to a private developer. The City of Dearborn Heights is expressing interest in purchasing.. FOTR's position is to still oppose the land sale and to keep the Warren Valley parkland in the public domain. Wayne County may be penalized for selling parkland under Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund rules.

There is a Save Hines Park meeting April 17, 700pm at the Dearborn Heights Public Library

i. Wayne County Land Bank

New Land Bank Executive Director contacted FOTR about deeding some properties in the Rouge River watershed to FOTR. The properties are located in Redford Township. Board discussed advantages and disadvantages of the proposals. Asked for the Land Bank staff to attend the June or August board meeting to learn more about the opportunity.

7) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by ST, seconded by CM. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:44pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson
FOTR Secretary