

Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2016
U of M Environmental Interpretive Center
Dearborn, MI 48128

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

Directors Excused: Andrew Hoffman (AH), Heather Esper (HE) (2 total)

Directors Absent: none (0 total)

Staff Members Present: Sally Petrella (SP), Cyndi Ross (CR1), Karen Hannah (KH), Erin Cassady (4 total)

1) CALL TO ORDER – Vice-President Alice Bailey called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm
(President Michael Darga joined the meeting in progress)

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Amending the agenda to move item 6 (closed session items) into open session was discussed.
Motion to approve the agenda as amended made by ST, second by DN, motion carried.

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. Minutes March 9, 2016

Motion to approve minutes made by KA, second by DN, motion carried

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

a. Rouge Education Project (REP)

Schools out monitoring every day: 128 schools and 2000 students involved in spring monitoring

b. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)

There is a new Rouge Rescue intern (Ani Cooper) started and will be with FOTR until August
KH is assisting with Rouge Rescue. Two sites already held events (Holliday Nature Preserve and Northville Recreation Area). Henry Ford Estate and Eliza Howell are working this weekend. A signup sheet for Board members to sign up for site visits/volunteering and to assist at key sites for marketing was circulated.

The Henry Ford Estate gave \$2000 to support Rouge Rescue

92 persons participated in the 2016 Spring Bug Hunt. The Bug ID nite is tomorrow. The Frog and Toad Survey is ongoing, and the first fish surveys began yesterday. There is some funding for the surveys to support FOTR staff and further research. Also asking for additional funding from the U-M Water Center

c. Membership Update/Committee

No recent meetings. 292 members to date, up 23 members from last report

d. Fund Development Committee

Committee meeting after Board meeting conclusion tonight

The committee met in March 2016. The Phone-A-Thon generated \$250 in pledges in one night.

Major donors are going to be a focus

The first Letter from the River generated renewed memberships and \$4500

The second Letter from the River is being drafted

ECT and ICT are committing to sponsor the Rouge Brew Cruise

The Committee is going to have a conference call tomorrow to finalize the beer selections

Update on Free Press Marathon partner activities- one team created and individual runners. Runner and volunteer recruitment is ongoing. The events are October 15-16, 2016.

d. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. February 2016

ii. March 2016

The deficit is being tracked. KH tracks it without interest included

Motion to approve February and March 2016 reports made by MM, seconded by WS, motion carried.

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. Staff Issues/Concerns

Staff wishes to be part of merger discussions/ED search

b. Rouge Rescue

Site visit signup sheet is being distributed

c. Board training

Distributed information on upcoming webinar, events

d. Additional issues from the floor

August 26, 2016- Save the Date for the Volunteer Recognition Picnic at Ford Field in Dearborn. Canoeing on the Lower Rouge will be available as part of the celebration.

e. Sign thank you letters

f. FOTR/ARC Merger Next Steps

A three month delay in the merger timeline is anticipated due to filling the ED vacancy. The goal is to have the position filled by the end of summer 2016.

Three resumes were submitted, but none of the candidates was considered at this time

The position is going to be posted again ASAP via River Network other non-profit networks

ERB Foundation is considering offering funding for a recruiter. Motion to allow MD and the Executive Committee to research a recruiter if ERB approves funding made by DN, seconded by MM. Motion carried.

The Executive Committee will review the initial resumes

FOTR staff is willing to run organization until merger is finalized

FOTR staff voiced concerns about ED position moving forward and asked to be present during discussions of merger moving forward

7) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by DN, second by MM, motion carried. Vote also ended closed session.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson

FOTR Secretary