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