

Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2015
U of M Environmental Interpretive Center
Dearborn, MI 48128

Directors Present: Keith Armitage (KA), Alice Bailey (AB), Mike Darga (MD), Chester Marvin (CM), Mike McNulty (MM), Dave Norwood (DN), Sharon Oliver-Merchant (SOM), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), William Stone (WS), Susan Thompson (ST), Steve Weis (SW) (11 total)

Directors Excused: Adam Cloutier (AC), Andrew Hoffman (AH), Carla Rigsby (CR2), (3 total)

Directors Absent: Heather Esper (HE), (1 total)

Staff Members Present: Aimee LaLonde-Norman (ALN), Karen Hannah (KH), Sally Petrella (SP) (3 total)

1) CALL TO ORDER – President Michael Darga called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda made by ST, second by DM, motion carried.

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. Minutes May 13, 2015

Motion to approve minutes made by SW, second by KA, motion carried.

4) REPORTS

a. Executive Director

Increase in funding from Bosch Community Fund; they are very interested in REP

Ford Model Teams Workday: 16 volunteers, staff and \$5,000. This is the first time in five years FOTR received this funding

FOTR awarded \$180,000 NPS Grant focusing on Tonquish and Johnson Creeks

Potential to revive Rouge Gateway Strategic Plan

FOTR received good press coverage for the Ford Workday and Rouge Rescue

Preparing for a print newsletter for distribution in the end of summer/early fall

Bylaws review planned for August Board meeting

River Rally update in the near future

i. Rouge Education Project (REP)

25 schools participated in spring monitoring this year

ii. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)

“Rain Gardens to the Rescue” is kicking off

IAA (Inter Agency Agreement) finalized for the GLRI (Great Lakes Restoration Initiative) Invasive Species grant

Cyndi Ross presented at the Wildlife Habitat Celebration at GM Milford

Working on Frog and Toad Survey report and Spring Bug Hunt reports

Rouge caddisfly research presented at the Tricoptera conference

Spider studies are being conducted on the Lower Rouge and specimens examined for heavy metal accumulation

b. Membership Update/Committee

Committee is planning for the 2015/2016 Annual meeting

Wood Frog is the most common membership level

There are approximately 300 FOTR members

c. Fund Development Committee

Sign up for tasks on the upcoming Rouge Brew Cruise

115 tickets sold so far, and \$2100 collected for the raffle

The food and beer selections for the Cruise are finalized
The Committee is meeting after conclusion of the Board meeting today
d. Finance Committee/Treasurer
Discussed April report
FOTR made progress in deficit and anticipate an increase in revenue in August

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. Rouge Rescue 2015

36 sites participated in Rouge Rescue
SP coordinated a Rouge Park site with 200 volunteers
Good local press coverage
Board members reported on the sites they visited/volunteered with/coordinated
Cyndi Ross is looking into providing safety training for Rouge Rescue site coordinators

b. Reorganization Investigation

ARC/Reorganization Committee meeting last Wednesday
The discussions continue
Group has homework regarding legal frameworks for watershed councils, Alliances and funding components
A committee member is preparing a draft of what the new organization may look like
How the board and representation of the new organization is decided is being discussed
Ticket sellers turn in ticket stubs and monies to ALN. 500 tickets signed out as of today.

c. Raffle

Board members are encouraged to continue selling Rouge Brew Cruise raffle tickets

d. Rouge Brew Cruise

Discussed in the Executive Director's report in 4) a.

e. Board training

Michigan Non Profit Association workshops schedule and information distributed

f. Additional issues from the floor

The Carpenter Lake walk was well attended

g. Sign thank you letters/individual updates

6) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by KA, second by CM, motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 6:22pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson
FOTR Secretary