Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2015  
U of M Environmental Interpretive Center  
Dearborn, MI  48128

**Directors Present:** Keith Armitage (KA), Alice Bailey (AB), Adam Cloutier (AC), Mike Darga (MD), Heather Esper (HE), Andrew Hoffman (AH) via conference call, Chester Marvin (CM), Mike McNulty (MM), Dave Norwood (DN), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), Susan Thompson (ST), Steve Weis (SW) (12 total)

**Directors Excused:** Carla Rigsby (CR2), William Stone (WS) (2 total)

**Directors Absent:** Sharon Oliver-Merchant (SOM), (1 total)

**Staff Members Present:** Aimee LaLonde-Norman (ALN), Cyndi Ross (CR1) (2 total)

1) CALL TO ORDER – President Michael Darga called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
Motion to approve the agenda made by CM, second by DN, motion carried.

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES  
a. Minutes August 12, 2015  
Motion to approve minutes made by BS, second by CM, motion carried.

4) REPORTS  
a. Executive Director  
Year-end giving, 30th Anniversary, major gifts, and endowments discussed.  
All work continues in all programs,  
The next ARC/FOTR Exploratory committee is scheduled for September 17, 2015.  
Planning for a September mailing of the FOTR newsletter.  
Looking into leasing an new copier for FOTR  
   i. Rouge Education Project (REP)  
31 schools are signed up for REP this fall, up 6 (4 new, 2 lapsed and returning)  
REP is preparing an online classroom curriculum  
No REP T-shirt this year, want to get kids involved in creating a two-sided map and posters  
   ii. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI) CR1 reports:  
Workshops and garden installations ongoing; it is exciting building partnerships and expanding outreach  
The Ford Model Team worked in the FOTR office garden for a work day event  
The Non-point source grant has 4 projects lined up, and 3 ready to go  
The FOTR Fall bug Hunt is October 17, 2015  
FOTR and volunteers assisted MDEQ with fish sampling  
Work on the Rouge River Water trail is ongoing.  
October 10, 2015 is Rouge-A-Palooza in Wayne

b. Membership Update/Committee  
Membership number hovering around 300 persons

c. Fund Development Committee  
Meeting coming up after the board meeting today
d. Finance Committee/Treasurer
   i. July 2015 Motion to approve July 2015 report made by CM, motion carried. Discussed program trending and endowment. Revenue is breaking even, and fundraising making up some revenue

5) NEW BUSINESS
a. Reorganization Investigation
Meeting is scheduled for September 17
Discussions between the parties continue

b. Board Training
Discussed board member responsibilities
Encourage Board members to attending NonProfit Network training on September 30, 2015

c. Additional issues from the floor
   i. FOTR copier- refer to memorandum dated 9/1/15 in board packet
   Discussion concluded in tabling the item in order to obtain more information
   ii. 30th Anniversary planning
   Discussed possibility of volunteer appreciation picnic, “state of the Rouge” events

d. Sign thank you letters/individual updates

6) ADJOURNMENT
Motion to adjourn made by ST, second by CM, motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 5:52pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson
FOTR Secretary