

Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2016
U of M Environmental Interpretive Center
Dearborn, MI 48128

Directors Present: Keith Armitage (KA), Alice Bailey (AB) call in, Adam Cloutier (AC), Mike Darga (MD), Heather Esper (HE), Mike McNulty (MM), Brandy Siediaczek (BS), William Stone (WS), Susan Thompson (ST), Carla VanKampen (CVK) (10 total)

Directors Excused: Andrew Hoffman (AH), Chester Marvin (CM), Steve Weis (SW) (3 total)

Directors Absent: Dave Norwood (DN) (1 total)

Staff Members Present: Karen Hannah (KH), Erin Cassaday (EC), Sally Petrella (SP) (3 total)

1) CALL TO ORDER

President MD called the meeting to order at 5:15pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda made by BS, seconded by ST. Motion carried

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. Minutes from September, 2016. Motion to approve made by MM, seconded by KA. Motion carried

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

a. Rouge Education Project (REP)

REP Monitoring Day wrapping up and 100 more students participated than last year

Working on grant applications and a volunteer is helping with updating the REP manual

b. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)

Fish monitoring is wrapping up (20 additional sites). Found rainbow darters in the Upper at Eight Mile Road, the diversity in the Main is low. Stonecats found at Firefighters Park in Troy and 4 mussels. Round gobies found in Rouge Park and at the confluence of the Main/Middle branches

120 volunteers signed up for the Fall Bug Hunt Saturday

41 people attended the Lower Rouge canoe in Wayne October 8 including the Mayor of Wayne, and a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Goudy Park boat launch

Cyndi Ross would like to fill a position for GLRI work and will provide more information to the board for consideration

\$4175 raised for the FOTR runners so far for the Free Press International Marathon events. The relay and ½ marathon is Sunday

\$1050 raised on FOTR Crowdrise

c. Membership Update/Committee

d. Fund Development Committee

“Letter from the River” draft getting ready for distribution

e. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. August 2016

Expenses are below at Year-to-Date, variance for annual budget below target, investments doing well, grants pay back in November and December. Budget meetings with programs starting

Motion to approve financial reports made by AC, seconded by ST. Motion carried

f. Executive Committee

Update on Executive Director search- interviews are ongoing, two completed, two next Tuesday and possibly two more in the first round

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. Free Press Marathon

\$4175 raised so far, 13 runners and exceeding number of volunteers and runners

b. Board Election

11 of 15 positions open and a location is needed for election and meeting. Southfield Public Library was booked and will check with Livonia Public Library. The date is December 14. The call to recruit board members will start. The ballot will be finalized at the November meeting

c. Staff Issues/Concerns

Overtime rules issued from Department of Labor impact non-profits and changes will need to be addressed through the budget process

d. FOTR/ARC merger next steps

Nothing new to report on the merger

e. Executive Director search

f. Discussion

Discussion of accessibility of FOTR website

g. Board training

h. Additional issues from the floor

Explore the Rouge events scheduling for next year discussed

i. Sign thank you notes

7) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by KA, seconded by ST. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:16pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson
FOTR Secretary