

Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2015
U of M Environmental Interpretive Center
Dearborn, MI 48128

Directors Present: Keith Armitage (KA), Alice Bailey (AB), Adam Cloutier (AC), Mike Darga (MD), Andrew Hoffman (AH) via conference call, Chester Marvin (CM), William Stone (WS), Susan Thompson (ST), Steve Weis (SW) via conference call,
(9 total)

Directors Excused: Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), Heather Esper (HE), Mike McNulty (MM), (3 total)

Directors Absent: Dave Norwood (DN), Carla Rigsby (CR2) (2 total)

Staff Members Present: Aimee LaLonde-Norman (ALN) (1 total)

1) CALL TO ORDER – President Michael Darga called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. Minutes October 14, 2015

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

4) REPORTS

a. Executive Director

Waiting to hear from the MDEQ regarding the NPS grant

The newsletter is generating some donations; 2000 newsletters printed, 1400 distributed by mail

Fiscal year 2016 is ongoing and the organization is in a deficit now, but will be getting a portion of that money back later in 2016

The ARC/FOTR Reorganization Committee held its sixth meeting, and the effort is moving forward including engaging key stakeholders

Working on a draft Memorandum of Agreement with paddling partners

Working on Public Information draft campaign with the ARC. Billboard with the FOTR logo may appear as early as next week

The FOTR website transition is slated to happen around December 1, 2015

Reaching out to marketing firms for 30th Anniversary branding/promotions idea

The Executive Committee approved a 1-3% wage increase based on merit, and this recommendation was referred to the Finance Committee

Pure Oakland Water (POW) is supporting two intern positions for 2016 to assist with Rouge Rescue and Green Infrastructure projects

New teacher orientation was held November 10, 2015

The Rouge Rescue Site Coordinator meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2016

The 2016 Frog and Toad Workshops are scheduled

There were 104 participants in the Fall Bug hunt

i. Rouge Education Project (REP)

REP is receiving funding of over \$40,000 through grants for 2016 from some of the following: GM, Arch Environmental, and LUSH Cosmetics

ii. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)

The ARC is funding FOTR benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring program for 2016 and possibly for the remainder of 2015

b. Membership Update/Committee

There are 29 new/renewed memberships this month

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2016 at the Livonia Public Library

c. Fund Development Committee

The next Fund Development Committee meeting is November 11, 2015 after the board meeting.

d. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. September 2015

Motion to approve September 2015 report made by AH, seconded by CM, motion carried.

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. Reorganization Investigation

Discussions between the parties continue. The Committee met on October 20, 2015. Key stakeholders were identified for both ARC and FOTR to approach regarding thoughts on the proposed reorganization. Ideas concerning the makeup of the board, Alliance v. Watershed Council structure, staffing during transition, what type of Executive Director, and the type of board model were discussed. A potential board makeup of community, governmental, and corporate members was discussed, and the number of board members proposed is 15. Anticipate decision from the boards in early 2016.

MD and ALN are going to meet with FOTR staff to update them on reorganization status next week.

b. 30th Anniversary

i. Planning

Ideas discussed for the 30th Anniversary celebration. Received RFPs from two marketing firms for marketing/promotions of approximately \$3-5,000.

ii. Letter from the River

AC is drafting a letter "from the river" for fundraising. Ideas for content and themes discussed, and a draft will be prepared by the December 2015 board meeting

c. Geocaching presentation

KA presented a geocaching introduction and potential opportunities

Ideas about using geocaching in FOTR events, 30th Anniversary celebrations discussed

KA will set up a FOTR geocaching presence and e-mail account

d. Board training

Earth Share presentation for 15 minutes at the next board meeting in November

e. Additional issues from the floor

f. Sign thank you letters/individual updates

6) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by ST, second by BS, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson
FOTR Secretary