

Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2017
U of M Environmental Interpretive Center
Dearborn, MI 48128

Directors Present: Mike Darga (MD), Alice Bailey (AB), Scot Martin (SM), Anne Naszradi (AN), Dave Norwood (DN), Brandy Siediaczek (BS), Susan Thompson (ST), Laura Wagner (LW) (8 total)

On Conference call: Andrew Hoffman (AH) (1 total)

Directors Excused: Orin Gelderloos (OG), Zachary Lovall (ZL), Emily Lowery (EL), (3 total)
(1 total)

Directors Absent: Al VanKerckhove (AVK) (1 total)

Staff Members Present: Marie McCormick (MMC), Karen Hannah (KH), Cyndi Ross (CR), Erin Cassidy (EC) (4 total)

Guests: None

1) CALL TO ORDER

President MD called the meeting to order at 5:36pm

Note: Meeting began as informational and then called to order after quorum was reached

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. October 11, 2017

Motion to approve made by BS, seconded by LW. Motion carried .

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

a. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (EC) is scheduled to hold calls on a monthly basis

On the last call, employee benefit review, nominations, building lease, Newman's Own Charity Fundraiser Challenge and employee reviews were discussed.

b. Executive Director

Refer to report for additional highlights

c. Rouge Education Project (REP)

Refer to report for additional highlights

d. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)

Refer to report for additional highlights

e. Membership Committee

Meeting tonight including discussing draft workplan

f. Fund Development Committee

Newman's Charity Challenge, year-end appeal and trailer sponsorship discussed. Restarting major gift initiative and reviewing stewardship packet

g. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. September 2017

Grants income will be coming in next month, investments and endowments same as last month

ii. Budget -2018

Review and the Board will vote via e-mail

Line items and additions discussed. The budget does includes changes in employee benefits

iii. Approval of 990

Finance committee recommends board approval.

Motion to approve made by AN, seconded by DN. Motion carried.

iv. Employee benefits (from Executive Committee)

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. Board Retreat Update and follow up

The Retreat was September 21, 2017 at the Howell Nature Center

Drafts of the core values the board worked on last meeting were distributed

ii. The values worked on during this meeting:

1. Community Collaboration

2. Quality of Life

3. Diversity/equity/inclusion

iii. Vision Statement

On hold until the next meeting

iv. Mission Statement

On hold until the next meeting

v. Board Member Elections

1. Confirm candidates

Candidates are: Mike McNulty, John Kelly, Andrew Hoffman, and Susan Thompson. There are some people interested but have not committed.

2. Nominations

Motion to accept the board candidates made by LW, seconded by DN. Motion carried

b. FOTR-ARC Merger Update

The ARC full committee met today and no formal action regarding the ARC/FOTR merger was recommended. MMC is asking for something in writing from the ARC saying that there is no more formal action on integrating The ARC is considering increasing the dues by 20percent, so the 2018 budget is not finalized.

c. FOTR Policy Manual

Finance committee recommends changes in billing rate policy. Motion made by ST, seconded by DN. Motion carried.

d. Office Lease/Relocation

Staff toured the PARC space in the City of Plymouth. The space is in need of renovation. The build out costs and the space design would need to be determined

e. Crowdrise Campaign (Newman's Own Charity Challenge)

This will be combined with year-end appeal

i. Sign up

Board members are encourage to sign up and encourage other to commit to donate \$250

ii. Photos

f. Additional items from the floor

6) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by DM, seconded by SM. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson FOTR Secretary

**Friends of the Rouge
Board of Directors Meeting
December 6, 2017
Membership Committee Report**

The membership Committee met on November 8, 2017 after the conclusion of the board meeting. The Committee discussed goals and objectives for 2017 and discussed a draft workplan for 2018.

Explore the Rouge

Events for Explore the Rouge 2018 were discussed. The goal is for organizing these events to be board-supported. Suggested events for 2018- bike rides, Holliday Nature Preserve hikes, and include the October Lower Rouge canoe, Industrial Rouge kayak, and the boat tour as events. The committee will brainstorm and contact potential event leaders.

The committee worked on a draft workplan and timeline for 2018. Events and items for potentials in 2018 are: new office open house, Rouge River water trail ribbon cutting, and open house with the terrain model

The committee reaching out to non-profits to find out what other groups do to attract and retain members. The groups contacted had a range of suggestions, such as offering incentives, holding member appreciation events, tangible incentives (like pewabic tiles or tree sponsorships, special mailings), other membership premiums. One non-profit suggested targeting baby boomers for giving, as they tend to have disposable income and inclined to donate to nonprofits.

The committee completed the revamp of the membership thank you letter.

Other items discussed were identifying environmental films that a membership event could be built around.

The next committee meeting/conference call is going to be at date TBD after the new year