

**Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**October 11, 2017**  
**U of M Environmental Interpretive Center**  
**Dearborn, MI 48128**

**Directors Present:** Mike Darga (MD), Alice Bailey (AB), Orin Gelderloos (OG), Zachary Lovall (ZL), Scot Martin (SM), Anne Naszradi (AN), Dave Norwood (DN), Brandy Siediaczek (BS), Susan Thompson (ST), Al VanKerckhove (AVK), Laura Wagner (LW) (11 total)

**On Conference call:** Emily Lowery (EL), (1 total)

**Directors Excused:** Andrew Hoffman (AH) (1 total)

**Directors Absent:** None

**Staff Members Present:** Marie McCormick (MMC), Karen Hannah (KH) (2 total)

**Guests:**

1) CALL TO ORDER

President MD called the meeting to order at 5:16pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. Minutes from September 13, 2017. Motion to approve made by BS, seconded by AN. 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

The EC conference call was last week. Employee benefit review, formal vote on FOTR/ARC merger, purchasing policies, and voting procedures for electing board members, were discussed.

b. Executive Director

Refer to report for additional highlights

Goal of 10,000“likes” for FOTR Facebook and an increase in website usage

c. Rouge Education Project (REP)

d. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)

e. Membership Committee

Planning on scheduling a November meeting and a committee workplan.

f. Fund Development Committee

Meeting tonight including discussing draft workplan

g. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. August 2017

Motion to approve August 2017 financial report made by LW, seconded by ST. Motion carried.

There is currently a surplus, good cash flow, and some new grant income at the end of October. The Form 990 is ready for Finance Committee review.

h. 3-D Model committee

This committee is having a meeting on the 3-D terrain model content. The print date is October 20.

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. Board Retreat Update and follow up

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

i. Committee descriptions

The committees are: Executive Committee, Fund Development, and Membership. All committee chairs are to finish committee descriptions for adoption at the November meeting

ii. Core Values

The Core Values discussed: Integrity, Stewardship, Education and Evidence-based decision making.

iii. Board member elections

The election needs to be held in December 2017. Discuss election options including e-voting/mail-in ballots, election meeting. LW as Board Development Committee chair will collect ballots, count ballots and designate individuals to assist with the counting.

Members have 30 days from October 12 to express interest for nomination

The list of candidates will be released to the membership electronically for e-voting. E-votes are accepted until close of business 6:00pm. No late ballots accepted.

Voting will be allowed following the FOTR board meeting December 13, 2017, 6:00-6:30pm., EIC Final vote count begins at 6:30pm. No late ballots accepted.

AH and ST interested in running again for the board. AN is stepping down after this term. MCC has three potential candidates. Need to have a slate of candidates for the next meeting.

b. FOTR-ARC Merger Update

FOTR vote on merger will be held after ARC votes

c. FOTR Policy Manual

Policies being reviewed; goal to do in November and December for board approval

d. Free Press Marathon marketing and fundraising

Raised over \$1000 in one day, one donor pledged \$\$ to match donations

The goal is \$6500 and \$1075 is needed

Board members are encouraged to support and friends/family, too.

Board members wishing to contribute contact MMC by 10:00am tomorrow

e. FOTR Office Location updates

There is no space at UM-D for FOTR to expand on campus. No cottages are available and property could be taken back by the Henry Ford Estate. Lease is up February 28, 201, willing to work for lease extension of three to six month (or more if needed).

Motion to extend the lease for three months made by DN, seconded by LW. Motion carried.

The PARC space in the City of Plymouth was discussed.

f. Additional issues from the floor

6) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by LW, seconded by ZL. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:02pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson FOTR Secretary