

**Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**January 13, 2016**  
**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), Chester Marvin (CM), Mike McNulty (MM), Dave Norwood (DN), Carla Rigsby (CR2) Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), William Stone (WS), Susan Thompson (ST), Steve Weis (SW)  
(14 total)

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

**Directors Absent:** none (0 total)

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

1) CALL TO ORDER – President Michael Darga called the meeting to order at 5:15 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 December 9, 2015

Motion to approve minutes made by AC, second by SW, motion carried

4) REPORTS

a. Executive Director

Signed the MDEQ rain garden grant today

Marine Pollution Control continued its stewardship in 2016

DENSO donated a new vehicle to FOTR

Submitted operations grant to ERB Foundation

The newsletter has almost paid for itself with donations generated post mailing

The online appeal raised \$1000 this month

The Rouge Area of Concern (AOC) conference is being held on University of Michigan- Dearborn campus March 2 and 3, 2016. FOTR is going to be involved the conference

The new interns are going to be starting soon

i. Rouge Education Project (REP)

REP will be celebrating 29 years; received over \$46,000 in funding

ii. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)

Rouge Rescue is coming up May 21, 2016

Rain Gardens to the Rescue project is ongoing

The ARC is funding benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring through 2016.

The winter stonefly search is February 13, 2016

The Frog and Toad Survey workshop is February 27, 2016

The Rouge River water trail meetings are ongoing and a water trail map is being drafted

b. Membership Update/Committee

c. Fund Development Committee

The Fund Development Committee is meeting tonight after the board meeting

MM is volunteering to chair the Rouge Brew Cruise committee

FOTR was selected as a charity partner for the Detroit Free Press International Marathon need to begin planning efforts

d. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. November 2015

November/December 2015 break even and deficit stopped growing

Motion to approve November 2015 report made by BS, seconded by ST, motion carried.

ii. Trend analysis- discussion on hold until next board meeting

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

i. Letter from the River

Discussed and AC will make edits

ii. Branding

Franco provided draft 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logos in different color schemes, styles and fonts. The board selected several and ALN will provide this feedback to Franco

b. Annual *Conflicts of Interest* review

Conflict of Interest forms distributed

c. Board training

d. Additional issues from the floor

Suggestion to check new FOTR website for accessibility

e. Sign thank you letters

6) Closed Session

a. Reorganization Investigation

i. Stakeholder feedback

The ARC meeting is planned for mid-March 2016

FOTR has its Annual Meeting scheduled for April 13, 2016

If both parties agree to the merger, then the 12-18 month transition period begins

The ERB funding is expended

There is \$35,000 in restricted funds from ERB Foundation if the merger is approved moves into the transition period

Stakeholder feedback was discussed

ii. 2016 Officers

Motion to maintain current officers made by AC, seconded by DN. Motion carried.

7) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by DN, second by MM, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson  
FOTR Secretary