

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

Directors Present: Keith Armitage (KA), Alice Bailey (AB), Mike Darga (MD), Dr. Orin Gelderloos (OG), Emily Lowery (EL), Chester Marvin (CM), Dave Norwood (DN), Brandy Siediaczek (BS), Susan Thompson (ST), Laura Wagner (LW) (9 total)

Directors Excused: Andrew Hoffman (AH), Zachary Lovall (ZL), Scot Martin (SM) (4 total)

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

Staff Members Present: Karen Hannah (KH), Erin Cassady (EC), Cyndi Ross (CR), Sally Petrella (SP), Marie McCormick (MMC) via videoconference (5 total)

1) CALL TO ORDER

President MD called the meeting to order at 5:08pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. Minutes from November 9, 2016. Motion to approve made by KA, seconded by DN. Motion carried

Note: No minutes from the December 2016 Board meeting (informational only-no quorum)

4) BOARD OFFICER ELECTIONS

Nominations and election results attached

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

a. Executive Committee

i. Executive Director Introduction (via video link)

New FOTR Executive Director Marie McCormick introduced to Board, introductions of all Board and staff
MMC videoconferenced with staff and is starting with FOTR full time

b. Rouge Education Project (REP)

REP report complete and sent out to sponsors

10 persons to return for teacher refresher course

All new grant applications in; Costco grant denied

c. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)

Planning on Rouge Rescue 2017 and the kick off meeting is March 7

Four bike, bus and walking tours coming up this year to tour Detroit Green Infrastructure projects

Posting is up for the River Restoration position vacancy. It is a two-year position and there are a few applicants at this time. Meeting with MDEQ personnel to get QAPP approved for the social survey
ARC Green Infrastructure project may have FOTR perform Grow Zone maintenance this year
Obtaining funding for the Frog and Toad survey available from LUSH and GM Foundation. These funds also for tech upgrades for the office/field. Three Frog and Toad workshops are scheduled for 2017 beginning in February.

95 people signed up for the stonefly search; all three local watershed groups doing their searches on the same day

Holiday charity challenge "A Penny for the Rouge" netted approximately \$2000

d. Membership Update/Committee

e. Fund Development Committee

Start meetings for 2017 after the February Board meeting

f. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. October 2016

ii. November 2017

Motion to approve November 2016 financial report made by BS, seconded by ST. Motion carried

ii. 2017 budget

Form 990 is on website; audit is up to federal standards

Motion to approve budget made by AC, seconded by KA. Motion carried

6) NEW BUSINESS

a. Staff Issues/Concerns

b. *Annual Conflicts of Interest* review

Board reminded to complete forms

c. Committee Assignments

Board members are required to serve on two committees. Communicate committee preferences to KH

d. FOTR/ARC Merger Next Steps

Executive Director hired and will be introduced to the ARC and be brought up to speed before starting to work on merger details

e. FOTR website accessibility

Review of website pages to for accessibility is ongoing

f. Board training

Board members are encouraged to suggest webinars, items of interest pertaining to board development

g. Additional issues from the floor

h. Sign thank you notes

Sympathy card for Spencer Brown, a long time volunteer who passed away December 2, 2016

7) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by DN, seconded by KA. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:04pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson

FOTR Secretary

JANUARY 11, 2017
FOTR Officer Nominations/Election

Nomination accepted: (A)
Nomination declined: (D)

President

Michael Darga: (A)
Alice Bailey (D)

Michael Darga accepted the nomination and elected President by acclamation

Vice-President

Alice Bailey: (A)
Keith Armitage (A)
Susan Thompson: (D)

Election results: Alice Bailey elected as Vice-President

Secretary

SusanThompson: (A)
Scot Martin- not present in order to accept nomination
Brandy Siedlaczek: (D)
Keith Armitage: (D)

Susan Thompson accepted the nomination and elected Secretary by acclamation

Treasurer

Andrew Hoffman: (A)*
Brandy Siedlaczek: (D)
Keith Armitage: (D)
SusanThompson: (D)

Andrew Hoffman accepted the nomination and elected Treasurer by acclamation

* Notified officers before meeting of nomination acceptance