

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

Directors Present: Alice Bailey (AB), Mike Darga (MD), Andrew Hoffman (AH) via phone , Chester Marvin (CM), Mike McNulty (MM), Dave Norwood (DN) Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), Susan Thompson (ST), Steve Weis (SW) (9 total)

Directors Excused: : Keith Armitage (KA), Adam Cloutier (AC), Heather Esper (HE), Carla Rigsby (CR2), William Stone (WS), (5 total)

Directors Absent: Sharon Oliver-Merchant (SOM) (1 total)

Staff Members Present: Aimee LaLonde-Norman (ALN), Sally Petrella (SP) (2 total)

1) CALL TO ORDER – President Michael Darga called the meeting to order at 5:11 pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. Minutes January 14, 2015

Motion to approve minutes made by CM, second by BS, motion carried.

4) COMMITTEE AND PROGRAM REPORTS (Informational)

a. Executive Director Report

Met with past and potential sponsors

Save Our Great Lakes grant application

Bloomerang conversion is complete

Targeting lapsed and corporate donors for Phone-a-Thon in March

Rouge Cruise dates: Thursday June 18, 2015 for Rouge Brews Cruise, August Dinner Cruise TBD

The dates for the Reorganization Committee are set

IKEA Life Improvement Challenge: FOTR is one of three charities competing for an office makeover

SP and ALN interviewed for Hour Magazine

Rouge Rescue intern started today. Position is being funded by Pure Oakland Water. Rouge Rescue Kickoff is next week

b. Rouge Education Project (REP)

REP T-shirt design finalized and the date for REP monitoring day is May 6, 2015

c. Volunteer Monitoring/River Restoration (PI)

133 volunteers signed up to sample 23 sites Saturday February 14, 2015

Frog and Toad Survey data analysis is ongoing

A GZM grant application was submitted for the Rouge River water trail

Meeting about the fish surveys and the grant has some time for SP. The surveyors will look at goby presence in the Middle Rouge and its distribution in the Lower Rouge this spring

Friends of Rouge Park applied for a creek cleanup grant with the City of Detroit

d. Membership Committee Report

The Explore the Rouge event is April 10, 2015- Who's Calling?

e. Fund Development Committee

Committee will convene a conference call before the next scheduled meeting March 11, 2015

Planning for Rouge Brew Cruise

f. Finance Committee/Treasurer's Report

i. December 2014

ii. 2013-14 Audit and 990

Motion to receive and file December 2014 Treasurer's Report and 2013-2014 Audit report and 990 made by DN, seconded by SW. Motion carried.

Next Finance Committee meeting February 26, 2015

7) NEW BUSINESS

a. ED Review- Completed

b. Update- Reorganization Investigation with ARC

The reorganization discussions are set to begin

c. Phone-A-Thon

Setting up for the Phone-A-Thon. May be able to get some additional phones. Board members needed to assist

d. Raffle

Kayak raffle license application will be submitted in coming days and, if approved, plan to have it take place at the Rouge Brews Cruise. Other prizes are a Wild Type gift card, and a Moosejaw backpack

e. Board Training

i. CFSEM endowment/planned giving- Spring 2015

Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan will be at April 8, 2015 meeting

f. Additional issues from the floor

Met with General Motors last week, and it was very positive

FOTR is participating in the Stormwater Strategy group hosted by Oakland County Water Resources

Commissioner Jim Nash. The group is discussing strategies to fund stormwater and water quality related activities

g. Sign thank you letters/individual updates

8) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by CM, second by SW, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:01pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson

FOTR Secretary