

Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2016
U of M Environmental Interpretive Center
Dearborn, MI 48128

Directors Present: 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)
(11 total)

Directors Excused: Keith Armitage (KA),* Andrew Hoffman (AH), Steve Weis (SW) (3 total)
*Attempted to conference call

Directors Absent: none (0 total)

Staff Members Present: Aimee LaLonde-Norman (ALN), Sally Petrella (SP0), Cyndi Ross (CR), Karen Hannah (KH) (4 total)

1) CALL TO ORDER – President Michael Darga called the meeting to order at 5:14 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 February 10, 2016

Motion to approve minutes made by DN, second by CM, motion carried

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

a. Executive Director

The “Letter from the River” mailed to 1100 households

ALN and Jen Tewkesbury (MDEQ) did a presentation at the Rouge Area of Concern (AOC) conference held at the University of Michigan-Dearborn

Annual Meeting information for April 13, 2016 meeting sent out

ARC billboard displays are ongoing throughout the watershed

Amended professional services with ARC

i..Rouge Education Project (REP)

Spring monitoring is coming up

LUSH is providing funding for laptop/Smartphone for REP

ii. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)

Rouge Rescue kick off meeting next week; focus on safety, invasive species specific training

There is lots of interest and new site coordinators

NPS grant work ongoing

CR Birthday today

2016 Frog and Toad survey:

Spring peepers calling in Salem Township. One workshop was held in Livonia; 83 people attended

The 2016 Stonefly Search report is completed. Stoneflies were found at 10 sites

Team Leader training is March 19 and the Spring bug hunt April 16.

Goal is to delist the Rouge by 2021

21 projects selected for delisting and GLRI funding

Attended Fort-Rouge Gateway (FRoG) meeting (Fort Street bridge park). Looking into ERB funding for boat launch at Fort Street site

b. Membership

c. Fund Development Committee

Meeting after Board meeting conclusion

FOTR is Detroit Free Press Marathon 2016 Charity Partner. Recruiting runners and volunteers for the event, which is October 15-16, 2016.

d. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. January 2016

Cash on hand is low, but some payments are coming in

Motion to approve January 2016 report made by CM, seconded by AC, motion carried.

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. Merger Next Steps

ARC Executive Committee approved merger and the full ARC board will vote next week

b. 30th Anniversary Branding

Brand is ready to go

c. Board training

Distributed information on upcoming webinar, events

d. Additional issues from the floor

FOTR staff addressed board (without ALN)

e. Sign thank you letters

No new Thank you letters for signing

6) CLOSED SESSION

Motion to enter closed session made by MM, seconded by DN. Motion carried

Staff concerns, Executive Director (ED) vacancy, posting the vacancy discussed

E-mail MD with suggestions on where to post ED position

7) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by DN, second by MM, motion carried. Vote also ended closed session.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson

FOTR Secretary