

Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2017
U of M Environmental Interpretive Center
Dearborn, MI 48128

Directors Present: Mike Darga (MD), Dr. Orin Gelderloos (OG), Emily Lowery (EL), Scot Martin (SM), Chester Marvin (CM), Dave Norwood (DN), Susan Thompson (ST), Al VanKerckhove (AVK), Laura Wagner (LW) (9 total)

On Conference call: None

Directors Excused: Alice Bailey (AB), Andrew Hoffman (AH), Zachary Lovall (ZL), Anne Naszradi (AN), Brandy Siediaczek (BS), (5 total)

Directors Absent: None

Staff Members Present: None (All staff at River Rally)

Meeting started as informational; agenda picked up on action items once a quorum was obtained

1) CALL TO ORDER

President MD called the meeting to order at 5:25pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. Minutes from April 12, 2017. Motion to approve made by EL, seconded by CM. Motion carried

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

a. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is scheduled to hold calls on a monthly basis

- i. Crisis Communication Plan- refer to Board packet
- ii. Rouge-A-Thon

FOTR partnered with Tour deTroit and Friends of Rouge Park for the April 22 run/bike event in Rouge Park. 80 persons participated and there was positive feedback about the event, and good support from the City of Detroit.

b. Executive Director

c. Rouge Education Project (REP)

d. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)

Rouge Rescue coming up May 20.

Water Trail Update:

DN reported on the Rouge River Water Trail. The group is seeking financial support for signage and promotion. Canton and Dearborn are going to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Wayne County for signage and markers. A formal proposal is being developed to make FOTR a fiduciary for the Water Trail. Liability and staffing in order to cover additional responsibilities discussed.

e. Membership Committee

f. Fund Development Committee

g. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. March 2017

Motion to approve March 2017 financial report made by DM, seconded by ST. Motion carried
Some movement on investments and moving funds into less volatile funds; the goal is to stay away from using principal and have a cash stabilization fund for large grant reimbursements. The committee discussed the possibility of placing some investment monies with the Southeast Michigan Community Foundation.

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. Board Training- no training at this meeting

b. Board Vacancy- no action at this time

c Board Retreat Location

Refer to Board packet for suggestions about team building/icebreaker activities

Discussed a ½ day activity a nearby location

A date in August, September, and October

Respond to Executive Director Marie McCormick with a suggested location and date

d. Rouge Rescue

CR set up a board sign-up sheet for Rouge Rescue. Board members are encouraged to participate
Volunteer Bill Craig postponed Holliday Nature Preserve Rouge Rescue until next weekend; other events this weekend and as late as June

e. FOTR-ARC Merger Next Steps

The first FOTR/ARC Transition team meeting is set for May 30

i. Proposed a Board member nomination for the “combined” board for both organizations (ARC and FOTR). FOTR asked for volunteer board members to serve on this board. The new board will be working on a framework for the new organization. Four nominations were received: MD, DN, LW and ST. A fifth volunteer is needed to round out FOTR’s picks.

f. Additional Issues from the Floor

EL discussed the frog mascot proposal for promoting the Detroit Free Press races (FOTR is a charity partner) and getting people involved. Naming the mascot, ideas on promotion, and taking photos of the frog in different locations on the river was discussed

7) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by OG, seconded by CM. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:37pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson

FOTR Secretary