

Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2015
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), Andrew Hoffman (AH) via conference call, Chester Marvin (CM), Mike McNulty (MM), Dave Norwood (DN), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), Susan Thompson (ST), Steve Weis (SW) (12 total)

Directors Excused: Carla Rigsby (CR2), William Stone (WS) (2 total)

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

Staff Members Present: Aimee LaLonde-Norman (ALN), Cyndi Ross (CR1) (2 total)

1) CALL TO ORDER – President Michael Darga called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda made by CM, second by DN, motion carried.

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. Minutes August 12, 2015

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

4) REPORTS

a. Executive Director

Year-end giving, 30th Anniversary, major gifts, and endowments discussed.

All work continues in all programs,

The next ARC/FOTR Exploratory committee is scheduled for September 17, 2015.

Planning for a September mailing of the FOTR newsletter.

Looking into leasing a new copier for FOTR

i. Rouge Education Project (REP)

31 schools are signed up for REP this fall, up 6 (4 new, 2 lapsed and returning)

REP is preparing an online classroom curriculum

No REP T-shirt this year, want to get kids involved in creating a two-sided map and posters

ii. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI) CR1 reports:

Workshops and garden installations ongoing; it is exciting building partnerships and expanding outreach

The Ford Model Team worked in the FOTR office garden for a work day event

The Non-point source grant has 4 projects lined up, and 3 ready to go

The FOTR Fall bug Hunt is October 17, 2015

FOTR and volunteers assisted MDEQ with fish sampling

Work on the Rouge River Water trail is ongoing.

October 10, 2015 is Rouge-A-Palooza in Wayne

b. Membership Update/Committee

Membership number hovering around 300 persons

c. Fund Development Committee

Meeting coming up after the board meeting today

d. Finance Committee/Treasurer

- i. July 2015 Motion to approve July 2015 report made by CM, motion carried.

Discussed program trending and endowment. Revenue is breaking even, and fundraising making up some revenue

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. Reorganization Investigation

Meeting is scheduled for September 17

Discussions between the parties continue

b. Board Training

Discussed board member responsibilities

Encourage Board members to attending NonProfit Network training on September 30, 2015

c. Additional issues from the floor

- i. FOTR copier- refer to memorandum dated 9/1/15 in board packet

Discussion concluded in tabling the item in order to obtain more information

- ii. 30th Anniversary planning

Discussed possibility of volunteer appreciation picnic, "state of the Rouge" events

d. Sign thank you letters/individual updates

6) ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:52pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson
FOTR Secretary