

**Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**December 12, 2018**  
**PARC Offices**  
**Plymouth, MI 48170**

**Directors Present:** Alice Bailey (AB), Mike Darga (MD), Paul Draus (PD), Orin Gelderloos (OG), John Kelly (JK), Scot Martin (SM), Mike McNulty (MM), Dave Norwood (DN), Susan Thompson (ST), Al VanKerckhove (AVK), Laura Wagner (LW) (11 total)

**On Conference call:** Andrew Hoffman (AH), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS) (2 total)

**Directors Excused:** Elizabeth Palazzola (EP) (1 total)

**Directors Absent:** (0 total)

**Staff Members Present:** Karen Hannah (KH), Marie McCormick (MMC) (2 total)

**Guests:** ARC Executive Director Annette DeMaria, Mike Rudell

1) CALL TO ORDER

President MD called the meeting to order at 5:16pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. November 14, 2018

Motion to approve made by ST seconded by BS. Motion carried .

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

a. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (EC) is scheduled to hold calls on a monthly basis. Did not meet this month

b. Executive Director

Refer to reports attached for highlights

Increase of website use and media coverage

c. Rouge Education Project (REP)

Refer to reports attached for highlights

d. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)

Refer to reports attached for highlights

e. Membership Committee

Refer to reports attached for highlights

f. Fund Development Committee

Committee conference call last week or so; planning for 2019; capital campaign, year-end appeal; and planning event around 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rouge catching fire, October 9, 2019 and GLRI celebration; Free Press Marathon Bronze Charity Partner application, and ITC grant discussion

g. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. October 2018

Budget in good shape by year end

Motion to approve October 2018 Treasurer's Report made by DN, seconded by St. Motion carried

ii. 2019 Budget

2019 Budget discussed. Motion to approve 2019 budget made by DN, seconded by LW. Motion carried

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. Organizational Assessment/Strategic Plan Update

A third final staff strategic planning meeting and program reviews. All program assessments are not completed. A date is finalized for the Board retreat: January 24, 2018, 5:00pm-9:00pm location TBD, looking into Liberty Street Brewing Company as a potential retreat location

b. Wayne County Property Sales (Village Industry Mills)

Two parcels for sale at Wilcox Mill, and the County has received bids. Phoenix Mill and Newburgh Mill for sale FOTR is taking position on sale of the parkland and letters opposing sale sent to Wayne County CEO Evans and Wayne County Commissioners

MMC is meeting with Wayne County Development Director Kahil Rahal early next year

Discussion on how to move forward: continue conversation with press, and County leadership and Commissioners

MMC met with other local watershed groups regarding nonprofit advocacy. ERB will be providing additional nonprofit advocacy training. A nonprofit can utilize up to 20 percent of its budget without jeopardizing 501 c(3) status

c. Northville Downs Update

Discussed FOTR's position on the Hunter-Pasteur Northville Downs redevelopment plan. The proposal is up for discussion at the December 18, 2018 City of Northville Planning Commission meeting and the developer would like FOTR's support. The goal of FOTR is to maintain independence at this time, and comment on project based on FOTR's mission and values as the project becomes more defined

d. Destination Downriver Coalition Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

MOU discussed

Motion to approve signing the Destination Downriver Coalition made by DN, seconded by ST. Motion carried

e. Wayne County Property Sales (Village Industry Mills)

Sales of Village Industry Mills discussed. LW will check into property ownership and FOTR will send letters regarding sale to Wayne County administration and Commission

f. Sign thank you notes

6. BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S ELECTION

Ballots were counted by LW and ST

LW announced results. Candidates elected to the 2018 FOTR Board of Directors are:

Dr. Paul Draus

Al VanKerckhove

Brandy Siedlaczek

Michael Rudell

Dave Norwood

8) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by JK, seconded by DN. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson  
FOTR Secretary