

**Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
January 9, 2019  
PARC Offices  
Plymouth, MI 48170**

**Directors Present:** Alice Bailey (AB), Mike Darga (MD), Orin Gelderloos (OG), Scot Martin (SM), Mike McNulty (MM), Dave Norwood (DN), Elizabeth Palazzola (EP), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), Susan Thompson (ST), Laura Wagner (LW) (10 total)

**On Conference call:** Paul Draus (PD), Andrew Hoffman (AH), (2 total)

**Directors Excused:** Mike Rudell (MR), John Kelly (JK), Al VanKerckhove (AVK) (3 total)

**Directors Absent:** (0 total)

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

**Guests:**

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 DN. Motion carried

3) WELCOME TO NEW AND RETURNING BOARD MEMBERS

a. Open Q and A

4) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. December 12, 2018

Motion to approve made by DN seconded by MM. Motion carried .

5) Board Officer Elections

Nominations and election results attached

6) 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

Board Retreat at Liberty Street Brewing Company Plymouth January 24, 2019

FOTR embroidered clothing order reminder

Annual meeting is in the main auditorium at PARC Tuesday March 19, 2019

c. Rouge Education Project (REP)

Refer to reports attached for highlights

Another \$70,000 in grant commitments from the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan

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

Discussed “Rouge Burn Anniversary” event at Marine Pollution Control and identifying speakers and sponsors  
Seeking sponsors to help offset costs for the Annual Meeting

g. Water Trail Committee

Applying for a grant for two launch designs for universal accessibility at Belanger Park and Melvindale

h. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. December 2018

Motion to approve December 2018 Treasurer’s Report made by DN, seconded by BS. Motion carried

7) NEW BUSINESS

a. Organizational Assessment/Strategic Plan Update

A date is finalized for the Board retreat: January 24, 2018, 5:00pm-9:00pm location at Liberty Street Brewing Company. Goal is to have the draft strategic plan update ready for presentation at the Annual meeting

b. Wayne County Property Sales (Village Industry Mills)

Wayne County is planning to sell Newburgh and Wilcox Mills and some adjacent parkland. FOTR is taking position on sale of the parkland and letters opposing sale sent to Wayne County CEO Evans and Wayne County Commissioners

A Save Hines Park meeting is being held tonight. The group is creating interest about the proposed sales

Wayne County Commissioner Diane Webb is speaking publicly against the sales

Phoenix Mill was sold.

A bid was accepted for the Wilcox Mill and adjacent parkland property “parcel B”

MMC is meeting with Wayne County Development Department Executives about the sales, and about the potential of working together to protect the river if the parcels are sold and get developed

c. Northville Downs Update

JK and MMC attended the December 18, 2018 City of Northville Planning Commission meeting and the developer Hunter-Pasteur Northville Downs presented its redevelopment plan. The project was applying for a Planned Unit Development (PUD) and it was denied due to density, traffic control and stormwater concerns.

The developer is threatening a lawsuit, and was invited to reapply with more plan details

FOTR is going to be following further developments regarding this project

d. Additional Issues from the floor

MMC is applying for a lobbying license for FOTR. The licensing is through the State of Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). There are steps to protect the 501(c) 3 status of the organization and advocacy is allowed as long as the activity does not exceed 20 percent of budget

e. Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Design and Access Legacy Fund Grant award approval

Motion to approve grant made by BS, seconded by LW. Motion carried

This grant is through the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan

f. Best Friend of the Rouge (BFOTR) Awards

Nominees for awards discussed

Motion to nominate the following persons for BFOTR Awards: Bill Eisenman, Sally Wallace, Alice Bailey, made by ST, seconded by MM. Motion carried. An amendment to the motion to add Wayne County Commissioner Diane Webb as a BFOTR nominee for Excellence in Public Service made by OG, seconded by ST. Motion carried

g. Sign thank you notes

8) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by ST, seconded by MM. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:39pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson  
FOTR Secretary

ATTACHMENT  
JANUARY 9, 2019  
FOTR Officer Nominations/Elections

Nomination accepted: (A)  
Nomination declined: (D)

President

Michael Darga: (A)  
Alice Bailey (D)  
Dave Norwood (D)  
Susan Thompson (D)

Michael Darga accepted the nomination and elected President by acclamation

Vice-President

Alice Bailey: (A)  
John Kelly\*  
Mike McNulty (D)  
Laura Wagner (D)

Alice Bailey accepted the nomination and elected Vice-President by acclamation

Secretary

Alice Bailey (D)  
Elizabeth Palazzola (D)  
SusanThompson: (A)

Susan Thompson accepted the nomination and elected Secretary by acclamation

Treasurer

Alice Bailey (D)  
Andrew Hoffman: (A)  
Dave Norwood (D)  
Brandy Siedlaczek (D)

Andrew Hoffman accepted the nomination and elected Treasurer by acclamation

Board Member at Large

Alice Bailey (D)  
Paul Draus (A)  
John Kelly \*  
Dave Norwood (D)  
Al VanKerckhove \*  
Laura Wagner (A)

Election results: Laura Wagner elected as Board Member at Large

\* Not present to accept nomination