

**Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 15, 2019**  
**PARC Offices**  
**Plymouth, MI 48170**

**Directors Present:** Alice Bailey (AB), Mike Darga (MD), Orin Gelderloos (OG), John Kelly (JK), Mike McNulty (MM), Dave Norwood (DN), Elizabeth Palazzola (EP), Mike Rudell (MR), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), Susan Thompson (ST), Al VanKerckhove (AVK), Laura Wagner (LW) (12 total)

**On Conference call:** Paul Draus (PD), (1 total)

**Directors Excused:** Andrew Hoffman (AH), Scot Martin (SM), (2 total)

**Directors Absent:** (0 total)

**Staff Members Present:** Karen Hannah (KH), Marie McCormick (MMC), Sally Petrella (SP) (3 total)

**Guests:**

1) CALL TO ORDER

President MD called the meeting to order at 5:14pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. March 13, 2019

Motion to approve made by DN seconded by JK. 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. Meet two weeks ago. All the items discussed are on the agenda

b. Executive Director

Refer to reports attached for highlights

Lots of press recently for FOTR

Received \$50,500 in support from Bosch

Three years of funding for general operating from Erb Family Foundation- \$126,000

Executive coaching for MMC with Meghan is beginning

Looking to hire a fund development coordinator

Ian Bernstein is an intern returning this year to assist with NPS, L+WW and other GI related activities

c. Rouge Education Project (REP)

Refer to reports attached for highlights

d. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)

Refer to reports attached for highlights

Ford "Hackathon"- 35 volunteers to analyze bug/fish data. Found some interesting correlations/trends with data and land use

Fish surveys found no red side dace in Upper Rouge

Frog and Toad app “Who’s Your Froggy” demonstration. The app was designed by a volunteer  
24-28 rain garden plantings ongoing

e. Membership Committee

Refer to reports attached for highlights

Planning a film screening of *Clear Water- Detroit’s River Revival* for November 14, 2019

f. Fund Development Committee

Fund Development meeting directly after board meeting conclusion

“Burn” Event, Rouge Cruise, Free Press Marathon Charity Partner, film screening, and capital campaign

Received a \$1000 donation for decal for the glass wall separating the office from the laboratory

Updated Sponsorship packet presented

g. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. February 2019

ii. March 2019

Motion to approve the February 2019 and March 2019 Treasurer’s Report made by DN, seconded by LW.  
Motion carried

iii. Audit e-vote update

Audit e-vote completed and the audit was approved

iv. 990 approval

Motion to approve the Form 990 made by DN, seconded by MM. Motion carried

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. Strategic Plan Update

Public Strategic Plan update- please provide comments directly to Meghan and cc MMC by May 24, 2019

Goal is to approve the Strategic Plan in June 2019

Add Strategic Plan updates to the board agenda

Staff is also beginning to implement plan, develop a spreadsheet to track progress

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. Parcel B is now off the sale block. Parcel A at Wilcox has a lot of activity going on including tree cutting on the bank of Wilcox Lake.

c. Northville Downs Update

FOTR is going to be following further developments regarding this project. There is a PUD approval for the whole parcel to be developed in two phases.

d. Fort Street Bridge Park/Maintenance Contract

Destination Downriver funding for completing Phase 1 of Fort Street Bridge project. Funding is \$500,000 for construction of Fort Street Bridge Park. FOTR is taking over fiduciary for Phase II

e. Fordson Island Project Fiduciary Role?

MDNR and EPA interested in funding. Giving funding to the City of Dearborn to purchase land and FOTR to act as fiduciary for project

Phase II assessment found mercury on site. No action on contamination as of this time

f. Rouge Rescue Sign Up

Signup list for Rouge Rescue being circulated

g, Board Development

- i. Training (DEI and Speaking) Erb to do training with board and speaking training for the speakers bureau and ready to do presentations
- ii. Identify new board members  
Board members are encouraged to identify a new board candidate. Have names by June board meeting

i. Additional Issues from the Floor

Need members for subcommittees for events coming up

Al's bike ride coming up on June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm West Bloomfield Trail

h. Sign thank you notes

8) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by ST, seconded by MM. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:41pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson  
FOTR Secretary