

Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2019
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), Elizabeth Palazzola (EP),Mike Rudell (MR), Susan Thompson (ST), Al VanKerckhove (AVK), (10 total)

On Conference call: Andrew Hoffman (1 total)

Directors Excused: Mike McNulty (MM), Dave Norwood (DN), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), Laura Wagner (LW) (4 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 5:19pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. May 15, 2019

Motion to approve made by JK seconded by SM. 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 last Wednesday. All the items discussed are on the agenda

b. Executive Director

Refer to reports attached for highlights

Lots of press recently for FOTR

Received \$55,000 in support from Bosch

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

Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Fund- \$49,500

Ian Bernstein is an intern returning this year to assist with NPS, L+WW and other GI related activities for 20 hours/week

FOTR has eight staff members presently

c. Rouge Education Project (REP)

Refer to reports attached for highlights

d. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)

Refer to reports attached for highlights

FOTR Rouge Rescue engaged 1300 volunteers, up from 1288 volunteers in 2018

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

Rouge Cruise coming up August 6-sponsorships needed. Tickets are up for sale with 14 sold so far

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

Discussion of the details of the “Burn” event details and other fundraising events. The “Burn” event will be at Marine Pollution Control headquarters, and Martin Doyle keynote speaker; live music, and a specially brewed beer from Downey Brewing, Dearborn, MPC boat rides, auction items, Detroit Fireboat, souvenir glass and more. Cost of event tickets is estimated between \$100-150. Share gift basket ideas for auction items with the Fund Development Committee.

g. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. April 2019

Motion to approve the April 2019 Treasurer’s Report made by JK, seconded by EP. Motion carried

Budget amendments were made for the second quarter and there is a surplus of \$146,000

Purchasing a fence for securing and storing plants at the PARC office. This expenditure is listed in administrative expenses. The fence will extend from the garage behind PARC.

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. Strategic Plan Adoption

Public Strategic Plan update- comments were provided and BP, MD, PD, ST and MD will review the revisions
Plan is to adopt the Strategic Plan in by Board e-vote

b. Water Trail Funding and Progress

Received \$49,000 from the Ralph C. Young Foundation for the Rouge River Water Trail.

FOTR is hosting the Ralph C. Young Foundation on Friday for a paddle on the Rouge River. The goal is a large funding ask.

The Water Trail Committee is releasing a letter to communities requesting financial support for the water trail at a level comfortable for budget situations of the individual community

There is a goal to hire a Water Trail development staff person

c. Organizational Policies

i. Measurable Effectiveness

ii. Gift Acceptance-guiding principles for gifts to FOTR

Board discussed policies and recommends wordsmithing on second policy with changes discussed.

Motion to adopt policies made by EP, seconded by SM. Motion carried.

d. Development Coordinator

FOTR is seeking to hire a Development Coordinator, part-time, exempt, non-hourly at the rate of \$35,000-\$38,000 annually, approximately 32 hours/week

The job is to do donor recognition, acknowledgement, and event coordination

July 30 is the deadline for applying for the position

e. Wayne County Property Sales Update

MMC met with Wayne County Development staff and attended and asked questions at the public meeting held regarding the Wilcox Mill redevelopment project at the Penn Theatre Plymouth

f. Northville Downs-Update

There are no changes to the site plan for the redevelopment of Northville Downs property, Northville planning committee is unhappy with plans, as is FOTR

g. Fort Street Bridge Park Updates

PD interviewed by the *Atlantic* magazine

Downriver Delta approved agreement to be presented to the City of Detroit
Entering next steps for permitting

h. Board Development/Nominations

Several board members suggested names for potential board members for approaching regarding interest in serving on the FOTR board. Names suggested: David Maurice, Sadiq Alsaïdi, Lydia Levanson, Glenda Marks, and several others

i. Additional Issues from the Floor

University of Michigan students looking at groups that have connections with AOC and PAC members
The scope of their project is interviewing individuals and attending meetings
Conflict of Interest (COI) statements needed from board members

j. Sign thank you notes

8) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by PD, seconded by ST. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:23pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson
FOTR Secretary

