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 Alsaidi, 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