

**MISSION**

To restore, protect, and enhance the Rouge River watershed through stewardship, education, and collaboration.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President, Jessica Eiland-Anders called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**a. Directors Present:**

Jessica Eiland Anders (JEA), Alice Bailey (AB), Paul Draus (PD), Nick Leonard (NL), Samr'ra Luqmann (SL), Madeline Maher (MM), Mike McNulty (MMN), Dave Norwood (DN), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), Carol Snodgrass (CS), Jeremiah Steen (JS), Myra Tetteh (MT), Susan Thompson (ST) (13 total)

**b. Directors Not Present:**

Erma Leaphart, Gerry VanAcker (2 total)

**c. Staff Members Present:**

Cyndi Ross (CR), Sara Steenbergh (SS), Sally Petrella (SP), Lara Edwards (LE), Sam Davis (SD), Karen Hanna (KH) (6 total)

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- a. Motion to remove January 11, 2023 meeting minutes from agenda. SL motioned to approve removal, seconded by MT. Motion carried.

**4. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

- a. September 14, 2022; November 9, 2022; and December 14, 2022 in packet.  
b. Motion to approve September, November, and December 2022 by SL, seconded by ST. Motion carried.

**5. STAFF PRESENTATION** – Lara Edwards, Development Director “Fundraising without the ASK”

**6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Executive Committee:** JEA reported

- i. Investment Policy (included in board packet) KH shared changes to existing policy – Allocations voted on in 2009 by board/Executive Director given authority to open a brokerage account, the last paragraph of policy. Motion to approve Investment Policy changes by MMN, seconded by JS. Motion carried.  
ii. Confidentiality Agreement (included in board packet) JEA discussed policy background. NL mentioned that he had a chance to look at it with a lawyer’s eye and agree that it is fine. No need to vote on this. KH added Google Form for Confidentiality Agreement in chat.

**b. Membership Committee**

- i. GVA is not present. No updates.

**c. Fund Development Committee:** AB reported

- i. AB asked if anyone is interested in joining the committee. Plan to schedule a meeting soon. Looking for members. Please let AB know if you want to join.
  - ii. Gearing up for fundraising for the Rouge Cruise.
- d. Board Development Committee:** MMN reported
  - i. Meeting 2 weeks ago SL and MM will be committee members. Went over basics of committee. There are 5 directors up for re-election next year. MMN will find out their intentions and start talent search/evaluation to see where we need to fill in skill set gaps.
- e. Advocacy Committee:** DN reported
  - i. DN reported that meetings have been held focused on the developments happening in Northville and Plymouth Township.
  - ii. ST and SP updated board on latest developments in Johnson Creek. SP and ST attended the Plymouth Township planning commission meeting. Updates on comments made in meeting. Letters were created and sent to officials with FOTR concerns with development. SL added her comments and asked for actionable items. NL shared his thoughts on this issue.
- f. Finance Committee:** KH/CS reported
  - i. KH presented the December 2022 and January 2023 Treasurer's Reports. Motion to approve by SL, seconded by MMN. Motion carried.
  - ii. CS presented the Q1 2023 Budget Amendments. Motion to approve budget amendments as presented by JS, seconded by ST. JEA shared notes from MMC and GVA about the budget line item regarding hiring the lobbyist company, Plunkett and Cooney. Motion carried.
  - iii. CS explained staff guidelines request. If there was a staffing change that isn't covered by a grant(s), that is the only time she would have to come to the board for approval.

## **7. Staff Program Reports**

- a. Executive Directors Report:** KH reported
  - i. Continuing Brand Audit/Brand Guidelines and new website development process [currently designing homepage]
  - ii. Working on PARC Office/Garage Lease Extension Agreement for 2023 - 2028
  - iii. Welcome to Sarah Steenburgh, FT Restoration Landscape Architect and Tyriek Bugbee, FT Trails Assistant!
  - iv. Hiring [6] additional new positions in 2023 [ 1 FT VISTA AmeriCorps and 5 PT roles] – see list below
  - v. Marie in Washington DC today/Thursday for Great Lakes Day with Healing Our Waters Coalition/National Parks Conservation Association as SE Michigan delegate
- b. Education Programs:** KH reported
  - i. See board materials.
- c. Restoration Programs:** CR reported
  - i. CR introduced SS, new Landscape Architect.

- ii. SS Introduced herself.
- iii. See board materials.
- d. Monitoring Programs:** KH reported
  - i. See board materials.
- e. Water Trail Programs:** KH reported
  - i. See board materials.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- a.** Walk-ins: Debbie Bondy, Annette DeMaria (ECT), Cody Tousignant, Robert Kidd, Leah Blizinski (City of Birmingham), Tim Hawkins (Dearborn DPW), Kathleen Rossie (7 total)
  - i. (in chat) Walk-in FYI only: You may already be aware of this - Tim Hawkins, Director of the Dearborn DPW, stated that the city put out a bid to clear 46 log jams on the Rouge within the city limits. Interested parties willing to tackle some or all of the log jams have until the end of March to submit bids (no time limits were placed for performing the work). These log jams increased in number and size following the 2021 flooding events. Log jams have not been cleared by the City of Dearborn since 2007, but is now a focus of the current administration.

**9. REMINDERS**

- a.** Upcoming Board Meetings:
  - i. May 10, 2023, 5-6:30pm (Zoom)
  - ii. June 14, 2023, 5-6:30pm (In Person at PARC in Plymouth)

- 10. ADJOURNMENT:** ST made the motion to adjourn, CS seconded the motion, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.