

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 5:04pm.

2. ROLL CALL

a. Directors Present:

Jessica Eiland Anders (JEA), Alice Bailey (AB), Paul Draus (PD), Erma Leaphart (EL), Mike McNulty (MMN), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), Carol Snodgrass (CS), Jeremiah Steen (JS), Myra Tetteh (MT), Susan Thompson (ST), Gerry VanAcker (GVA) (11 total)

b. Directors Not Present:

Nick Leonard, Samr'ra Luqmann, Madeline Maher, Dave Norwood (4 total)

c. Staff Members Present:

Marie McCormick (MMC), Cyndi Ross (CR), Lara Edwards (LE), Dallas Ford (DF), Lauren Eaton (LEA) Karen Hanna (KH) (6 total)

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

a. Agenda was moved and approved.

4. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. January 22, 2023 in packet.

b. Minutes were moved and approved.

5. STAFF PRESENTATION – Dallas Ford, Restoration Coordinator “LaNita’s Pocket Park”

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Executive Committee

i. We are trying to streamline the board materials and reports with a consistent template.

ii. Thanks to KH and JEA for helping with this change. Send any feedback on the process to MMC directly.

b. Finance Committee: CS Reported

i. CS presented the February and March Treasurer’s Reports and board financial reports.

ii. CS will call a Finance Committee meeting soon for approval of the new investment firm and also some budget amendments.

iii. Financial reports were moved and approved.

c. Membership Committee

i. No updates.

d. Fund Development Committee: AB reported

i. AB did a brief overview on the Rouge Cruise coming up on August 10, 2023.

- e. **Board Development Committee**
 - i. No updates.
 - f. **Advocacy Committee:** MMC reported
 - i. MMC covered the 5 letters that went out. Four around our position in opposition to the Salem Wastewater project.
 - ii. Bridge Magazine, The Ville had interviews with MMC.
 - iii. Sparr's Greenhouse at Joy and Lilly was denied rezoning R1 to C2 due to the local neighbors that showed up.
 - iv. Our position is to follow laws and green practices.
 - v. MMC will share a deck at the next meeting regarding advocacy work
 - g. **Restoration Committee:** CR presented
 - i. Working to complete seedling planting on the Lower Rouge. 1,100 seedlings to be planted. If anyone has volunteers that can help, connect with Renato.
 - ii. Most of the other work is in progress.
 - iii. Planning to apply for several grants including Hamtramck Urban Forestry Grant.
 - h. **Monitoring Committee**
 - i. Lauren Eaton is the new Monitoring Manager.
 - ii. Next meeting is May 15, 2023.
 - i. **Education Committee**
 - i. Updates in board packet
 - j. **Water Trail Leadership Committee**
 - i. Updates in board packet
- 7. Strategic Plan Discussion**
- a. There is an RFP going out to have a third party for the next 5 years.
 - b. MMC asked if there were people that wanted to help, if so, reach out to her.
- 8. Intercultural Development Inventory**
- a. Invitations have been sent out.
 - b. All should take the inventory, it takes 15-30 minutes and responses are confidential.
 - c. You will get a group debrief and report.
 - d. If you would like an individual debrief, the cost is \$150 at your expense.
 - e. The group debrief is May 17, 2023 at 4:30pm.
- 9. Staff Program Reports**
- a. **Executive Directors Report:** MMC reported
 - i. Continuing Brand Audit/Brand Guidelines and new website development process [moving slowly]
 - ii. Working on PARC Office/Garage Lease Extension Agreement for 2023 - 2028
 - iii. New windows have been installed in the office, much brighter and transformational.
 - iv. We are working with Plunkett Cooney as our lobbyist.

- v. Rouge Gateway Greenway Phase 2 project runs parallel to Rouge River with the goal to go to Fort Street.
- vi. FOTR is working with Wayne County Parks for mutual programming, education. MOU will hopefully help.
- vii. MMC covered her activities in Washington DC with the Great Lakes Initiative.
- viii. MMC also covered notable events and meetings.

b. Fund Development: LE reported

- i. DeShe Mathis was hired as Administrative Database Specialist.
- ii. Updates on Rouge Cruise (August 10, 2023) and Celebrate with Friends member and volunteer event and BFOTR awards ceremony (June 22, 2023).

c. Grants and Funding

- i. See board materials.

d. Education Programs

- i. Ammie Woodruff hired as Community Organizer.

e. Restoration Programs: CR reported

- i. Native plants and rain barrels at Livonia DPW
- ii. FOTR offers consultations with different tiers for services.

f. Monitoring Programs

- i. Frog & Toad Survey – 228 people signed up.
- ii. Bloomfield had 99 participants on January 21 for the Stonefly Survey.
- iii. Fish Surveys – 20 sites for next 3 years.
- iv. PFAs portion of fish survey was shared with EGLE.
- v. 2 interns hired for summer.

g. Trails Programs: MMC reported

- i. Ty Bugbee, Trails Assistant, is working on a new paddling program.
- ii. Planning is under way for a legislative boat trip with Plunkett Cooney on June 12, 2023.
- iii. Dry dock pop-up work to be shared.
- iv. 50 people signed up for paddling trip with Herman.

h. PR/Marketing/Media

- i. See board materials

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Walk-ins: Debbie Bondy, Annette DeMaria (ECT)

11. REMINDERS

- a. Upcoming Board Meetings:
 - i. June 14, 2023, 5-6:30pm (In Person [optional] at PARC in Plymouth)

12. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:24pm.