

**Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

MISSION

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

VISION

We envision a future where a clean and vibrant Rouge River is the center of our community. Individual and community actions protect and improve the health of the Rouge River, assuring that its natural, economic, and recreational value enhance the quality of life in the Rouge River ecosystem.

Directors Present: Alice Bailey (AB), John Deslippe (JD), Paul Draus (PD), Orin Gelderloos (OG), Bill Hazel (BH), Erma Leaphart (EL), Sam Lulkin (SL), Mike McNulty (MM), Dave Norwood (DN), Sara Rubino (SR), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), Susan Thompson (ST), Al VanKerckhove (AVK), Laura Wagner (LW), Melissa Weydendorf (MW)
(15 total)

Directors Excused: (0 total)

Directors Absent: (0 total)

Staff Members Present: Marie McCormick (MMC), Karen Hannah (KH) (2 total)

Guests/Members Present: None

1) CALL TO ORDER

President LW called the meeting to order at 5:05pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Introduction of new Board members

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. December 9, 2020

Motion to approve the December 9, 2020 board minutes made by PD, seconded by BS. 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. The EC has not met yet this year. Need to elect new officers, which will be done later in this meeting. There are five positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. There are no incumbents running for the Secretary and Treasurer positions

b. Executive Director Report

Refer to reports attached for highlights

There is an 88 percent uptick in the FOTR website and a huge increase in sessions and virtual engagement

Hired Jonathan Weyrick as the Restoration Coordinator

The Trails Coordinator position is narrowed down to two persons from a pool of 80 applicants. A decision as to the candidate selected is Friday.

MMC invites Board members for One on One meetings this year
Thanks to the Board members who attended the virtual “Holiday Cheer”
Giving Tuesday amount was double of that last year- \$34,000

c. Education (REP Committee)

Refer to reports attached for highlights

d. Restoration/Monitoring (PI Committee)

Refer to reports attached for highlights

e. Rouge River Water Trail Leadership Committee

Water Trail Committee meeting coming up in February 2021. Contact Sally Petrella if interested in attending/becoming a committee member

f. Membership/Committee

Refer to reports attached for highlights

FOTR now had 500 members, thanks to Lara Edwards for her efforts in increasing memberships

g. Board Development Committee

Releasing the Board attendance matrix and events list (Board Matrix and Board Member expectations will need Board approval)

Release of the DEJ Audit and this report will be shared with the Board soon

h. Fund Development Committee

Anticipate holding in-person Rouge cruise next year; invitation to new Board members to join Fund Development Committee

i. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. December 2020

KH provided updates on the financials

Motion to approve the December 2020 report made by DN, seconded by ST. Motion carried

j. Advocacy Committee

No activity to report

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. 2021 Board Officer Nominations/Elections

Five open positions-Nominations/Election results are listed as follows:

President: Laura Wagner (accepted)

DN moves to elect, seconded by PD. Laura Wagner elected President by acclamation

Vice-President: Alice Bailey (accepted)

DN moves to elect, seconded by AVK. Alice Bailey elected Vice-President by acclamation

Treasurer: Dave Norwood (declined), Sam Lulkin (accepted)

DN moves to elect, seconded by MM. Sam Lulkin elected Treasurer by acclamation

Secretary: Brandy Siedlaczek (declined), Susan Thompson (declined), Sara Rubino (accepted)

DN moves to elect, seconded by ST. Sara Rubino elected Secretary by acclamation

b. Other issues from the floor

The Board Committee spreadsheet will be distributed so Board members can review committee descriptions and select the committees of their choice

6) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by AVK, seconded by OG. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:53pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson
FOTR Secretary