

Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2019
PARC Offices
Plymouth, MI 48170

Directors Present: Mike Darga (MD), Orin Gelderloos (OG), John Kelly (JK), Mike McNulty (MM), Dave Norwood (DN), Elizabeth Palazzola (EP), Mike Rudell (MR), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), Susan Thompson (ST) (9 total)

On Conference call: Paul Draus (PD), (1 total)

Directors Excused: Alice Bailey (AB), Andrew Hoffman (AH), Scot Martin (SM), Al VanKerckhove (AVK), Laura Wagner (LW) (5 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 5:14pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. January 9, 2019

Motion to approve made by DN seconded by EP. 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. Did not meet this month

b. Executive Director

Refer to reports attached for highlights

Annual meeting is in the main auditorium at PARC Tuesday March 19, 2019

Working with Near Perfect Media- FOTR is receiving good media coverage

The "Burn" Event will get a press release and local officials will be invited

Martin Doyle "How American Remade its Rivers" a keynote speaker

c. Rouge Education Project (REP)

Refer to reports attached for highlights

REP 90% funded for the next 2 years

d. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)

Refer to reports attached for highlights

Cancelling the spring bug hunt

Frog and Toad Survey workshop is this weekend

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

Discussed "Rouge Burn Anniversary" event at Marine Pollution Control and identifying speakers and sponsors

Full revamping of the stewardship packet for distribution for the board for review

g. Water Trail Committee

A water trail safety summit was held today.

The second water trail open house is April 11, 2019 6-8pm at Jefferson Barnes Community Center Westland

h. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. December 2018 and January 2019

Motion to approve the December 2018 and January 2019 Treasurer's Report made by MM, seconded by ST.

Motion carried

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is next Tuesday. Eighty registered so far; deadline is Friday.

b. Strategic Plan Update

Reviewed draft with MMC, Meghan, and board. An update to the membership will be given at the Annual Meeting

c. Wayne County Property Sales (Village Industry Mills)

Wayne County is planning to sell Newburgh and Wilcox Mills and some adjacent parkland. FOTR is taking position on sale of the parkland and letters opposing sale sent to Wayne County CEO Evans and Wayne County Commissioners

A Save Hines Park protest is going to be held at the State of the County address March 14

d. Northville Downs Update

FOTR is going to be following further developments regarding this project.

e. Fort Street Bridge Park/Maintenance Contract

Maintenance agreement of the Fort Street Bridge Project discussed. MDOT owns property and prefer a local unit of government be responsible for maintenance. FOTR is interested in taking over the site maintenance: cleanups, plant maintenance. The Downriver Delta partner is the insurance holder. Prefer a five year agreement. This would be the first official maintenance contract for FOTR

Motion of support for FOTR to enter into a Fort Street Bridge Park maintenance agreement made by DN, seconded by ST. Motion carried.

f. Liquor License for Rouge Burn Event

Motion to approve a resolution of the board of Directors authorizing the application for special license to the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulation and Regulatory Affairs application to have a one day liquor license at the Rouge Burn celebration made by DN, seconded by MM. Motion carried.

g. Additional Issues from the floor

FOTR Water Schools at two locations:

Northville Township Hall September 26-27, 2019

University of Michigan- Dearborn in 2020

Green Your Neighborhood Community Forum this weekend

Reminder to sign up for FOTR board committees

h. Sign thank you notes

8) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by ST, seconded by MM. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:39pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson
FOTR Secretary

ATTACHMENT
JANUARY 9, 2019
FOTR Officer Nominations/Elections

Nomination accepted: (A)
Nomination declined: (D)

President
Michael Darga: (A)
Alice Bailey (D)
Dave Norwood (D)
Susan Thompson (D)

Michael Darga accepted the nomination and elected President by acclamation

Vice-President
Alice Bailey: (A)
John Kelly*
Mike McNulty (D)
Laura Wagner (D)

Alice Bailey accepted the nomination and elected Vice-President by acclamation

Secretary
Alice Bailey (D)
Elizabeth Palazzola (D)
SusanThompson: (A)

Susan Thompson accepted the nomination and elected Secretary by acclamation

Treasurer
Alice Bailey (D)
Andrew Hoffman: (A)
Dave Norwood (D)
Brandy Siedlaczek (D)

Andrew Hoffman accepted the nomination and elected Treasurer by acclamation

Board Member at Large
Alice Bailey (D)
Paul Draus (A)
John Kelly *
Dave Norwood (D)
Al VanKerckhove *
Laura Wagner (A)

Election results: Laura Wagner elected as Board Member at Large

* Not present to accept nomination