

Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2018
Environmental Interpretive Center (EIC)
Dearborn, MI 48128

Directors Present: Alice Bailey (AB), Mike Darga (MD), Orin Gelderloos (OG), John Kelly (JK), Scot Martin (SM), Brandy Siediaczek (BS), Susan Thompson (ST), Laura Wagner (LW) (8 total)

On Conference call:

Directors Excused: Andrew Hoffman (AH), Manja Holland (MH), Mike McNulty (MM), Dave Norwood (DN), Elizabeth Palazzola (EP) (5 total)

Directors Absent: Al VanKerckhove (AVK) (1 total)

Staff Members Present: Karen Hannah (KH), Marie McCormick (MMC), Sally Petrella (SP) (3 total)

Guests: None

1) CALL TO ORDER

President MD called the meeting to order at 5:17pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3) WELCOME TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

4) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. March 14, 2018

Motion to approve made by LW seconded by JK. Motion carried .

5) 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 met last Monday. All items discussed are on tonight's meeting agenda. Also discussed sharing RFP information with other watershed groups and replacement options for the Rouge van

b. Executive Director

Refer to reports attached for highlights

FOTR hired three interns to assist with programs for the summer

Working with a video crew to develop videos focusing on invasive species (aquatic, yard, and large scale areas)

FOTR featured in several local publications

c. Rouge Education Project (REP)

Refer to reports attached for highlights

d. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)

Refer to reports attached for highlights

Rouge Rescue is coming up May 19- refer to the board member sign up

Canton Trails Day June 2

e. Membership Committee

Refer to reports attached for highlights

f. Fund Development Committee

Refer to reports attached for highlights

Fund Development is meeting after the board meeting conclusion

g. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. February-March 2018

Motion to approve Treasurer's report made by ST, seconded by SM. Motion carried.

ii. Q2 Budget Amendments

Motion to adopt the Q2 amendments made by JK, seconded by BS. Motion carried.

There are increases in expenditures due to office furniture for the new office space, capital improvements, moving expenses and staff time. FOTR is approved for a loan for the capital improvements with no prepayment penalty.

Board discussed taking out the loan or pay with cash on hand. FOTR has received \$25,000 from donors already.

FOTR needs to put 50% down before the furniture and movable walls can be ordered

The loan amount is \$90,000 (anticipated)

Motion to authorize MMC to enter into financing for 60 months, 90 day deferred made by LW, seconded by SM. Motion carried.

6) NEW BUSINESS

a. Organizational Assessment/Strategic Plan RFP

Seven bids for strategic planning purposes were received. The EC will review, provide comments and recommendations to the board.

b. PARC Office Relocation

i. Lease Update

ii. Capital Campaign

MMC provided updates on PARC space, presented the new office capital campaign plan and overview of new space layout/design

iii. Temporary offices in the EIC

UM-D needs FOTR office space for Engineering effective June 1, 2018.

The Bird Banding room in the EIC (200square feet) will be used for temporary office space; staff will be given option to work from home this summer, and items can be stored at PARC. FOTR is not being charged rent

For the three months. Also, no charges for phone and IT services

c. Fort Street Bridge Park Project (FRoG) Fiduciary

Motion for FOTR to become fiduciary for FRoG project Phase II made by ST, seconded by LW. Motion carried.

Phase 2 includes the kayak launch stormwater features and FOTR would receive administration fees. The administration would not be staff intensive and the project fits with FOTR's mission

d. Board- Training *Capital Campaigns*

e. Additional Issues from the floor

f. Sign thank you notes

g. Healing Our Waters (HOW) Conference

FOTR was asked by the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) to do a joint presentation on watershed collaborative efforts at the HOW conference

h. New Board Member

Board member Zach Lovall resigned from the board. Dr. Paul Drauss is interested in joining the board to fill that vacancy. He is the facilitator of the FRoG project and a University of Michigan- Dearborn Sociology professor.

If appointed, he would serve until the next election at the annual meeting. Dr. Drauss is going to be invited to the June Board meeting.

8) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by BS, seconded by ST. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson FOTR Secretary