

**Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 11, 2020**  
**PARC Offices**  
**Plymouth, MI 48170**

**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 Deslip (JD), Orin Gelderloos (OG), Dave Maurice (DM), Mike McNulty (MM), Mike Rudell (MR), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), Susan Thompson (ST), Al VanKerckhove (AVK), (9 total)

**On Conference call:** Paul Draus (PD), Elizabeth Palazzola (EP), Laura Wagner (LW) (3 total)

**Directors Excused:** Andrew Hoffman (AH), (Dave Norwood (DN) (2 total)

**Directors Absent:** Bill Hazel (BH) (1 total)

**Staff Members Present:** Marie McCormick (MMC), Karen Hannah (KH), Lara Edwards (LE), Adam Elghoul (4 total)

**Guests:**

1) CALL TO ORDER

President LW called the meeting to order at 5:25pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. January 8, 2020

Motion to approve the board minutes made by BS, seconded by JDS. 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 committee created the agenda, added some items under Fund Development, and Advisory Committee

b. Executive Director

Refer to reports attached for highlights

Updated FOTR staff and board webpages; Drafted annual report

Increased press coverage of FOTR with television spot and radio spots in the last month

Next month is the Great Global Cleanup- Seven sites and FOTR is hosting an afterglow at Downey Brewing

Rouge Recue is May 16, 2020

c. Rouge Education Project (REP)

Refer to reports attached for highlights

d. Restoration/Watershed Monitoring Programs

Refer to reports attached for highlights

e. Rouge River Water Trail Leadership Committee

Introduction of Adam Elghoul, the Watershed Coordinator, who started work last week

Met with partners for “network” trail as part of the Rouge Gateway; FOTR is fiduciary of the project. Asking for monies for Woody Debris Management along the water trail from Ford Field to Evergreen Road in the City of Dearborn.

f. Membership Report/Committee

Annual Meeting date is March 19, 2020 at Downey Brewing Company, Dearborn

March 31, 2020 is the date for the next Membership Committee meeting

Event requests- need Board members to sign up for tabling events

g. Board Development Committee

Recruiting Board Members flyer

Received the diversity, inclusiveness training and organizational audit funded by ERB

h. Fund Development Committee

LE shared with the Committee and talked about Rouge Rescue funding, corporate donors, and major donor development. The Committee meets tonight at the conclusion of the board meeting.

Rouge Rescue is not fully funded and the Committee wants to do more to bring attention to the event. Thinking of charging for ecologically sustainable T-shirts that may help with costs

i. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. January 2020

Motion to approve Finance Committee report made by ST, seconded by AVK. Motion carried.

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. Major Donors Course

i. Background

ii. Treasure Map Exercise

LE presented to the board about major donors and inviting people to participate, and to make a difference “Your Story” development- what brings you, as a board member, to be passionate about FOTR?

E-mail LE your story

The board broke out into pairs to share their stories about why they became and continue to be involved with FOTR

b. Annual Meeting March 19

The event at Downey Brewing Company is all set to go- it is free to attend; cash bar; the Pink Flamingo food truck will be outside; and the presentation starts at 6:00pm

c. Q2 Budget Amendments

Looking to post a full time Restoration Coordinator with three years of experience and need to be able to do design plans

Ian took a full time job at another organization

More grants are on the docket; so it is important to being someone on board

The creation of the new position was approved by the Finance Committee

Motion to approve Q2 budget amendments made by BS, seconded by AVK. Motion carried

d. Addition of FOTR Advisory Council

Addition of the FOTR Advisory Council to support MMC and staff. The group would consist of potential major donors/people to mentor MMC and staff

MMC would write up a summary document description for the proposed Council.

Motion to create FOTR Advisory Council made by ST, seconded by OG. Motion carried.

e. Additional issues from the floor

Coronavirus update on how FOTR is responding, and discussions of virtual meeting options and eliminating large meetings. Evaluating future events depending on what the situation with the virus is

Women for Clean Water March 31, 2020 5:30pm-7:00pm

f. Sign thank you notes

6) ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson  
FOTR Secretary

