

**Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2019
PARC Offices
Plymouth, MI 48170**

Directors Present: Mike Darga (MD), Mike McNulty (MM), Scot Martin (SM), Dave Norwood (DN), Susan Thompson (ST), Al VanKerckhove (AVK), Laura Wagner (LW) (7 total)

On Conference call: Mike Rudell (MR) (1 total)

Directors Excused: Alice Bailey (AB), Andrew Hoffman (AH), Orin Gelderloos (OG), Elizabeth Palazzola (EP), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), (5 total)

Directors Absent: John Kelly (JK), Paul Draus (PD) (2 total)

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

Guests: Tim McAllister, Cardno

1) CALL TO ORDER

President MD called the meeting to order at 5:15pm

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. June 12, 2019

Motion to approve made by MM seconded by SM. 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 met in August. All the items discussed are on the agenda

b. Executive Director

Refer to reports attached for highlights

MMC has an interview today with the Detroit Free Press regarding the “Rouge Burn”

c. Rouge Education Project (REP)

Refer to reports attached for highlights

REP is 95% funded for the year

d. River Restoration/Volunteer Monitoring (PI)

Refer to reports attached for highlights

\$20,000 grant for river signage received

e. Membership Committee

Refer to reports attached for highlights

Up to \$150 pledged for the Detroit Free Press Marathon events

Planning a film screening of *Clear Water- Detroit's River Revival* for November 14, 2019 to be used as a membership building event

f. Fund Development Committee

Rouge Cruise was August 6, 2019 and cleared \$18,500 profit. Need sponsorships for the “Burn” event. A fundraising goal of \$35,000 is set.

g. Rouge River Water Trail Leadership Committee

i. Rouge River Water Trail Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan was approved by the Leadership Committee

Motion to adopt the Strategic Plan made by ST, seconded by SM. Motion carried.

h. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. May 2019

ii. June 2019

iii. July 2019

Motion to approve the May, June and July 2019 Treasurer’s Report made by DN, seconded by LW. Motion carried

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. Strategic Plan Adoption

Public Strategic Plan update

Plan is to adopt the Strategic Plan in by Board e-vote; and a date of adoption needed, and the e-vote to approve was unanimous

b. Board Elections/Slate approval

There is a minimum ballot for the board election; additional candidates are encouraged. The minimum ballot is as follows: Alice Bailey, Laura Wagner, Orin Gelderloos, Dave Maurice, and Matt Gower. Motion to accept the slate as presented made by DN, seconded by SM. Motion carried.

c. Event Updates

i. Press Event: Rouge Burn Commemoration/Fort Street Bridge Park Groundbreaking-October 9

This event is at 10:00am at the Fort Street Bridge Park. There are dignitaries and representatives scheduled to attend. Bluebird boxes built by Fordson High School students will be placed on Fordson Island the day of the press event.

ii. Rouge Burn Anniversary Celebration Event-October 10

Keynote speaker is set; the event starts at 4:00pm with boat rides and the Detroit fireboat *Curtis Randolph*; speakers begin at 7:00pm

iii. GLRI Event-October 18

Several FOTR staff will be attending this event

d. Employee Manual

The FOTR Employee Manual was fully revised. Motion to approve the adoption of the revised FOTR Employee Manual made by SM, seconded by MM. Motion carried.

e. Gift Giving Guidelines

Gift Giving Guidelines discussed by the board. No action taken at this time

f. Development Coordinator

There are 30 applications received for the FOTR Development Coordinator position and they are difficult to whittle down as the candidates are very strong. KH, AB and MMC are reviewing and the field was down to 5 and now to three.

g. Northville Downs-Update

The developer pulled the Planned Unit Development (PUD); going ahead with Phase 1 (Cady Street). Everything else is to be determined

h. Wayne County Property Sales- Update

An Hour Magazine article on the Wilcox and Newburgh Mill projects was very pro-development. There is also a concern regarding Parks leasing a Park parcel in Westland for use as a parking lot for a local business

i. Fort Street Bridge Park

Groundbreaking at the site is on October 9, 2019 after Rouge Burn commemoration press event

j. Board Development

MMC is applying for funding to do diversity/equity/inclusion training and an equity audit. This is being done with the Huron River Watershed Council, Friends of the Detroit River, and Clinton River Watershed Council. Customized training will be developed for each organization. Funding for this work is being requested from ERB.

k. Additional issues from the floor

Fordson Island cleanup is not getting funded, but is on EPA's radar screen." Funding is being look for through a BEA Delray Economic Development grant.

The Rouge River and Detroit Month of Design featured at the Detroit City of Design event at Carbon Athletic Club Sunday, September 29, 2019, 2:00pm

j. Sign thank you notes

6) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by DN, seconded by MM. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson
FOTR Secretary