

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

Directors Present: Alice Bailey (AB), Mike Darga (MD), Paul Draus (PD), Orin Gelderloos (OG), Scot Martin (SM), Mike McNulty (MM), Elizabeth Palazzola (EP), Mike Rudell (MR), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), Susan Thompson (ST), Al VanKerckhove (AVK), Laura Wagner (LW) (12 total)

On Conference call: None (0 total)

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

Directors Absent: John Kelly (JK), (1 total)

Staff Members Present: Marie McCormick (MMC), Karen Hannah (KH), Cyndi Ross (CR) (3 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 SM. Motion carried

3) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. November 13, 2019

Motion to approve made by LW 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. The items of discussion were staff and Executive Director reviews. Great reviews for staff and the Executive Director (ED). Pay adjustments are reflected in the 2020 budget

b. Executive Director

Refer to reports attached for highlights

The Watershed Planner (Trails) was offered to an interviewee. The person declined, and another two persons are going to be interviewed. Also, in the process of interviewing Watershed Monitoring interns

The Meltwater report shows FOTR has a potential to reach the most out of the area watersheds

Second highest in media hits; estimate about a million media hits.

The medial contract with Robar will renew. The focus will be on social media and staff time. This contract is funded by the Erb Family Foundation. Positive media exposure is good for funding, credibility, and helping FOTR to grow as an organization

c. Rouge Education Project (REP)

Refer to reports attached for highlights

d. Restoration/Watershed Monitoring Programs

Refer to reports attached for highlights

Saturday, May 16, 2020 is Rouge Rescue and Global Cleanup Day is Saturday April 25, 2020. The Global Cleanup Day is focusing on the Detroit River

Small GI projects funded by the Nature Conservancy- signage at large projects. The final report is due on the 13th

It is a positive to be working with the Detroit Nature Conservancy. This is a pass through grant with the Pisces Foundation

Seventy-four of the 173 projects in Detroit are FOTRs

Monitoring: the benthic program is now 85% funded, and stonefly searching is 100% funded

Asked 20 communities for financial support of monitoring at sites in their communities: two have not replied. Three said no, and others have responded positively with \$21,000 of funding

There is a possibility of funding the Frog and Toad survey fully

Two master Rain Gardner trainings are scheduled, two “Get Your Lawn a Job” workshops and partnering with other watersheds. Looking at marketing across the region

e. Membership Report/Committee

Lara Edwards is working really hard on “thank yous”

AVK is planning for his 2020 bike ride

Thanks to all who attended the *Clear Water* film event

f. Fund Development Committee

Thank you to all who assisted with events this year

Will hold a retrospective on events in January 2020 and planning

g. Rouge River Water Trail Leadership Committee

Met with the Ralph C. Wilson to move ahead with the “ask:” funding for launch and part of the Watershed Planner position. Goal is to develop a non-motorized trail plan with the Henry Ford Estate and Wayne County Parks. The “ask” is almost \$3 million

Wayne County has issued an RFP for the Gateway Plan (by invitation only). The fiduciary is the Friends of the Detroit River and Wayne County will oversee the project

FOTR is taking over Phase II of the Fort Street Bridge Park

h. Finance Committee/Treasurer

i. November 2019

Motion to approve the November 2019 Treasurer’s Report made by ST, seconded by SM. Motion carried

ii. 2020 Budget Approval

Motion to approve the 2020 Budget made by ST, seconded by EP. Motion carried

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. Year End Appeal

Two matching donors with \$12,000 raised to date

b. Watershed Planner

Discussed during the ED’s report

c. 2019 Executive Director Performance Review

Processing staff comments on ED; the memorandum is not completed as of yet

All staff reviews are completed; and continuity of staff is a strong positive for the organization

d. Wayne County Property Sales- Update

The sales of Newburgh and Wilcox Mills were approved by the Wayne County Commission in December 2019.

e. Upscaling Restoration Program

Discussed during the ED's report

f. Board Development (no training today)

Suggest creating a flyer to post information on becoming a board member; and develop a board skill set analysis. MR will design a flyer for use in board member recruitment

g. Additional issues from the floor

h. Sign thank you notes

i. President's Farewell

President MD spent 28 years as officer of FOTR; his last official meeting as a board member/President. Board members, staff and guests paid tribute to MD's dedication to the organization.

6) ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by DM, seconded by LW. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm

7) Post Meeting-Board Election/Final Vote and Tally

The ballots received for the Board election were tallied. There are five (5)-three -year terms and one (1)- 1 year term available. The top five vote-getters receive three-year terms, and the sixth highest vote getter receives the one year term

The results are as follows:

The individuals elected to the five three- year terms are:

1. Alice Bailey
2. Orin Gelderloos
3. Laura Wagner
4. John Deslip
5. Bill Hazel

The individual elected to the one year term is:

6. Dave Maurice

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan Thompson
FOTR Secretary