

Friends of the Rouge Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting via Zoom May 11, 2022

MISSION OF FRIENDS OF THE ROUGE

To restore, protect, and enhance the Rouge River watershed through stewardship, education, and collaboration.

VISION OF FRIENDS OF THE ROUGE

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.

I. Call to order

Motion to called to order the regular meeting of the at 5:07 pm on May 11 via Virtual Zoom Meeting.

II. Roll call

Directors Present:

Laura Wagner (LW), President
Sam Lulkin (SL), Treasurer
Carol Snodgrass (CS), Treasurer newly appointed
Melissa Wydendorf (MW), Secretary
Alicia Bradford (AB)
Erma Leaphart (EL)
Samraa Luqman (SAL)
Madeline Maher (MAM)
Mike McNulty (MM)
Brandy Siedlaczek (BS)
Susan Thompson (ST)

Staff Members Present:

Marie McCormick (MMC), Executive Director
Lara Edwards (LA), Development Director
Karen Hannah (KH), Operations Manager
Cyndi Ross (CR), Restoration Manager

Directors Excused:

Alice Bailey (AB), Vice President
Paul Draus (PD)
Dave Norwood (DN)
Myra Tetteh (MT)

Approval of minutes from March 9 meeting

Motion to approve by ST, second by MW- approved by all

Motion to approve minutes by MM, second by ST- approved by all

III. Presentations

- a) **Restoration Update-** presented by Matthew Bertrand, Sr.
Restoration Coordinator
 - (1) Matthew provided an overview of Rain Gardens-construction and purposes-highlighted the importance of rain gardens and their ability to transform lawns into functional landscapes
 - (2) The landscape of the PARC office in Plymouth (location of FOTR main office) has mostly been transformed to functional rain garden use
 - (a) Estimated to soak up nearly 3.5 million gallons of water/year
 - (3) Matthew highlighted a Rainwater Management Plan which aims to install 12,000 rain gardens, 57 rain barrels and plant 640 thousand trees by 2035
 - (4) Goal has been trying to develop a tool to map/track rain garden progress on private property
 - (a) Resolution was to develop map/tracking system- Soak it Up!
 - <https://gisappsecure.ewashtenaw.org/public/semigrreenprojects/>
 - Launch date to be announced
 - (5) Hoping to launch a Green Infrastructure Service Fall '22-Spring '23
 - (a) To include green consulting/maintenance services
 - (b) Currently developing a business plan

IV. Executive committee:

- (1) PARC building set to receive new windows Fall '22
- (2) Upcoming trainings for Board Members to attend
- (3) New staff to FOTR- Brian Devlin
- (4) Successful Restoration project completed by Cyndi Ross and team
 - (a) 9,000 seedlings planted throughout Lower Rouge
- (5) Thanks to the Margret Dunning Foundation, FOTR purchased a 2022 Chevy Colorado Truck

V. Board Development Packet:

- a) Board voted to elect Carol Snodgrass to the Treasurer role and to serve the duration of Sam Lulkin's term (19 months) as well as Madeline Maher who will serve the remainder of Bill Hazel's term (7 months). Welcome!!

VI. Finance Committee:

- a) January through March financials- motion to approve by SAL, second by MM

VII. Membership Committee:

- a) Earth Day fundraiser generated \$2,700; 14 new members
 - (1) Not as successful as 2021 campaign; Lara Edwards mentioned they plan to revisit approach for 2023
 - (2) Heart of the Rouge- August 11 from 6-9 at the Phoenix Mill in Plymouth, MI
 - (a) Soliciting sponsorship- help to spread the word!
 - (3) Detroit Free Press Marathon subcommittee to form-more info to follow

VIII. Advocacy Committee:

- a) E-mail Dave Norwood to join committee
- b) List of priorities for position papers documents
- c) Advocacy page on website to be updated

IX. New Business

- a) Changes to communication policy regarding major announcements- motion to approve MAM, second by EL
- b) To volunteer for tabling events, contact Sam Davis (sdavis@therouge.org)

Meeting adjourned 6:31pm- motion to adjourn SL, second by ST

