

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

President, Jessica Eiland-Anders, called the meeting to order at 5:16 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

a. Directors Present:

Jessica Eiland Anders (JEA), Mike McNulty (MMN), Carol Snodgrass (CS), Susan Thompson (ST), Dave Norwood (DN), Brandy Siedlaczek (BS), (6 total)

b. Directors Not Present:

Alice Bailey (AB), Paul Draus (PD), Erma Leaphart (EL), Madelin Maher (MM), Nick Leonard (NL), Samraa Luqman (SL), Jeremiah Steen (JS), Myra Tetteh (MT), Gerry VanAcker (GVA), (9 total)

c. Staff Members Present:

Marie McCormick (MMC), Allison Eder (AE), Lauren Eaton (LEA), Lara Edwards (LED), Karen Hanna (KH), Sally Petrella (SP), Cyndi Ross (CR),

d. Guests Present:

None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

a. A quorum was not present. The agenda will be moved and voted on in an e-vote.

4. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

a. A quorum was not present. The agenda will be moved and voted on in an e-vote.

5. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Executive Committee MMC Reported

i. Discussion of Memorandum of Understanding about the Bonnie Brook property acquisition.

ii. A quorum was not present so this item will be voted on at a future meeting.

b. Finance Committee: CS Reported

i. CS Presented the March 2024 Treasurer's report and board financial reports.

ii. CR discussed a recent grant funding that just came through.

iii. No questions were raised. A quorum was not present so this item will be voted on at a future meeting.

6. Executive Director Offboarding (MMC reporting)

a. MMC will be handing to Jessica this week a suite of documents which includes: ED Playbook, Relationship Tracker, Garden of Duties, Theory of Change Document, and Ways of Working Document.

i. All five documents will be shared with the new ED. The Garden of Duties, Theory of Change, and Ways of Working will be shared with staff.

- ii. Together Together helped with the ED Playbook, Theory of Change, and Ways of Working Documents.
- iii. Theory of Change and Ways of Working documents were created with the FOTR team's input and feedback.
- b. MMC is meeting one on one with each staff member to provide support for the transition.
- c. MMC's advisory role contract is in the process of being finalized.
- d. MMC will continue to be involved in organizations that overlap with our mission, such as RRAC and Plymouth Pollinators. She is looking forward to continue collaboration with FOTR in her new role.

7. New Executive Director Onboarding

- a. New ED is set to begin on July 8, 2024.
- b. She is excited to get started and she is already signed up for monitoring events.
- c. Together Together is offering support for this transition process. They have the organizational knowledge and will be a great contact and resource for this task.

8. Heart of the Rouge

- a. Currently there is \$14,000 pledged for the event. The current goal is \$35,000.
- b. If you have a contact that would potentially be interested in becoming a sponsor, Lara is happy to initiate this conversation on your behalf.
- c. There is an option this year for individual sponsorships for the event. These are a great option for small businesses.
- d. The event is Wednesday August 7 at HopCat in Livonia.
- e. We have 10 artists to make nature themed art for an online art auction.
- f. Tickets will be sold through Q-Give.
- g. The Website will reflect all sponsors and artists.
- h. There was a brief discussion about the issues with the website that FOTR has observed. Steps are being taken to make it more reliable for our community members and make sure the marketing of this event isn't impacted by any technical issues.

9. Grant Administrator Role/REP

- a. ST asked about the BWET Grant, which was denied this year.
- b. One of the reasons for this change is that the REP needs to be reimagined. One concern has been funding. There hasn't been funding for innovation, growth, relationship development, or support for participating teachers.
- c. The Grant Administrator role will meet one of the organization's biggest needs.
- d. The job description is being finalized.
- e. EC will begin the new role on June 24.
- f. Discussion was had about the REP and current challenges after COVID has changed the educational landscape.
- g. It was suggested to lead a focus group with teachers and principals to better understand the needs and capabilities of participating schools.

10. Staff Reports

- a. Executive Director**
 - i. See board materials
- b. Fund Development**
 - i. See board materials
- c. Grants and Funding**
 - i. See board materials
- d. Education Program**
 - i. See board materials
- e. Restoration Program**
 - i. See board materials
- f. Monitoring Program**
 - i. See board materials
- g. Trails Program**
 - i. See board materials

11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS Discussion

- a. PR/Marketing/Media Board Committee Reports**
 - i. See board materials
- b. Membership Committee**
 - i. See board materials
- c. Fund Development Committee** SL Reported
 - i. See board materials
- d. Board Development Committee:** MMN reported
 - i. See board materials
- e. Advocacy Committee:** (MMN reported)
 - i. See board materials
- f. Restoration Committee:**
 - i. See board materials
- g. Monitoring Committee:**
 - i. See board materials
- h. Education Committee:**
 - i. See board materials
- i. Water Trail Leadership Committee:**
 - i. See board materials

12. NEW BUSINESS

- a.** Friends of the Rouge now has a trademark on Rouge Rescue. FOTR is also pursuing trademarks for StormWater Specialist Training and Dry Dock Pop Ups.
- b.** Trademark infringement will begin to happen.
- c.** FOTR needs to come up with a plan for guidelines, policies, and action items to deal with trademark infringements.
- d.** FOTR reaching out to legal parties to help set these guidelines.
- e.** FOTR to build trademarks on logos and increase awareness of the trademarks.

- f. We can allow others to use trademarks with guidelines once they are set. This helps to protect the organization and our reputation.

13. REMINDERS

- a. The board will take a summer recess from meetings in July and August.
- b. Upcoming Board Meetings:
 - i. · September 11, 2024, 5 - 6:30 PM (FOTR Board Meeting, Hybrid @FOTR offices)
- c. Upcoming Organizational Events:
 - i. · August 7, 2024 6 - 9:00 PM (Heart of the Rouge: Annual Fundraiser)

14. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM.