



Minutes for the February 13, 2023 FORNL Board Meeting

Opening – Herb Krause

Herb Krause called the Zoom meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. A quorum was present.

Attendees:

Officers present: Herb Krause, President; Ellen Smith, Vice President; Fred Peretz, Secretary; David Mullins, Treasurer.

Board Members Present: Bob Compton, Al Ekkebus, David Fields, Carolyn Krause, and Janet Swift. Board candidate Steve Overbury was also present.

Adjunct members in attendance: James Rome and Kent Williams.

Announcements – Herb Krause

The “Notice of the Annual Meeting and Election” was emailed to all members on January 11, in compliance with the bylaws. The final FORNL 2022 Annual Report was posted to forn1.org on February 7. New contact information for 2023-2024 board members was created; board members were asked to check and report any needed changes to Herb. Note that Syd Ball’s email address has changed.

Adjunct Bob Hightower decided to leave the board for 2023-2024. Steve Overbury and Ray Garrett are invited to attend this board meeting to become oriented with the board’s operation. A Professional Development Hour (PDH) certificate was sent to P. Bryan for the January talk.

Lab Liaison – Katy Brown

Katy did provide a response on planning for the bus tours in 2023. Work is underway on revised scripting and route changes because access to the Graphite Reactor will be limited due to nearby work activities. It appears the tours will start in mid-April.

Secretary – Fred Peretz

Minutes for the January 9 board meeting were circulated to the board with the agenda. They were approved with minor changes and will be posted on the FORNL website.

Treasurer – David Mullins

A good number of membership renewals have come in, with 20 additional annual memberships for 2023. This created \$400 of income. Benevity income continues at about \$37 per month. Costs in January include Paypal fees and reimbursement for State of Tennessee corporation registration.

The SASEF check sent in October has not yet been cashed, as the contact has been out for some time. It is expected to be cashed soon. The IRS Form 990-N will be filed in April. The treasurer’s report was submitted to the board as a separate file and will be added to the FORNL website.

Membership – David Mullins

As noted above, an additional 20 annual members are paid up for 2023.



Luncheon Lectures - Ellen Smith, Carolyn Krause, Bob Compton

The January 10 talk was by Adam M. Guss, ORNL Center for Bioenergy Innovation, “Synthetic biology for production of sustainable fuels and chemicals from renewable or waste carbon.”

Upcoming meetings:

The February 14 talk will be by Gina Tourassi, ORNL Director of the National Center for Computational Sciences and Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility, on “Extreme Scale Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence at the Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility.”

March 14 is scheduled for Susan Hubbard, ORNL Deputy Director for Science and Technology. A discussion on priorities for Hubbard’s talk ensued; consensus called for a split between an overview of current themes for S&T at ORNL and her personal research interests. Ellen Smith will discuss this further with Hubbard. (Subsequent to the meeting, the speaker and topic was changed to Joan Bienvenue speaking on the origin and activities of the University of Tennessee-Oak Ridge Innovation Institute.)

An environmental research topic is preferred for April, recognizing Earth Day. David McCollum was mentioned as a possible Earth Day speaker since he attended the recent UN climate crisis conference in Egypt. Verity Salmon might be able to speak on a net-zero world initiative.

Cynthia Jenks remains a possible future speaker, as does Ken Tobin. Bob Compton suggested a talk on polymer chemistry with either a UT or ORNL speaker. Bruce Moyer has agreed to talk this summer, addressing chemical separations and research in the Critical Materials Institute. Other potential speaker opportunities have been identified in prior months’ minutes.

A discussion on a recent Soup Kitchen lunch arranged by the League of Women Voters as a potential option for us. Rather than the buffet-style approach, this would cover a box lunch consisting of soup, sandwich, and dessert for \$12 per person. Individuals would supply their own drink. (Subsequent live attendance (12 persons) at the February 14 meeting suggest that such arrangements may still be premature.)

Media reports

Newspapers – Carolyn Krause

An article on Adam Guss’ talk appeared on the front page of the Oak Ridger on February 1. An announcement on the February 14 Gina Tourassi talk was sent multiple times, but still hasn’t appeared in The Oak Ridger (or other papers). Subsequent information: It was printed in *The Oak Ridger* on the day of the talk—February 14.

The web site continues to be updated with ORNL news releases.

Facebook – Ellen Smith

Ellen is adapting to ever-changing meeting announcement procedures on Facebook, with plans to complete tomorrow’s meeting announcement after the meeting.

Hybrid Meeting – Herb Krause

Arrangements for the February hybrid meeting were discussed. The annual meeting will be held first, with election of board officers for the coming year. Ellen Smith will count Zoom votes, and Fred Peretz will count in-house votes. Fred will also collect checks and new member information for David Mullins.



Webmaster – Jim Rome

Web site transition to a new system is underway, and Jim asked that postings be placed on hold until the transition is complete. Jim also asked that we subscribe to a standard MailChimp account at \$14 per month; this would allow for multiple email lists (such as one for paid members and another for a broader distribution). The board agreed with this approach.

Biographies for Syd Ball, Ray Garrett, Steve Overbury, and Jim Rushton should be posted on the web.

AMSE and Bus Tours – Janet Swift and Al Ekkebus

Al Ekkebus is participating in planning for the 2023 bus tour program, and further information is expected soon. ORNL planning passed on by Katy Brown indicates challenges with the Graphite Reactor portion of the tour, and an expected start in April.

Tony Schnadelbach (cell 862-902-2261) is now serving as AMSE Director of Volunteers and Public Programs.

New Member and Public Outreach – Fred Peretz, Syd Ball, Bob Compton, and Herb Krause

As a Silver Sponsor level contributor, FORNL has been given an invitation for a member and guest to attend the opening banquet for the Tennessee Science Bowl on February 24, 6:00 pm, at the Airport Hilton. Jim Rome volunteered to participate and will register with the Science Bowl prior to the February 15 deadline.

Community Lectures – Kent Williams, and Bob Compton

Preparations are underway for a March 20 community lecture by Hap McSween, Chancellor's Professor Emeritus of Planetary Geoscience at the University of Tennessee. Likely topics cover Mars, meteors, asteroids, and the origin of the solar system. Bob Compton will draft a formal invitation letter specific to McSween, based on an earlier draft by Kent Williams. David Fields will contact McSween for a vita and abstract. David has arranged room A111 (City Room) at the Oak Ridge Roane State campus for 7 pm March 20. As McSween is local, travel cost will not be an issue. The possibility of an honorarium was discussed. Kent Williams will work on refreshments catering. As a minimum, Bill Cabage will be contacted for publicity at ORNL. Carolyn Krause will prepare a news release on the Dick Smyser Community Lecture for *The Oak Ridger* and other news media.

Kent Williams will resume exploring the possibility of bringing Siegfried Hecker to Oak Ridge as a speaker after the Hap McSween talk.

History Room – Janet Swift and Al Ekkebus

Manhattan Project – Fred Peretz

PDH Certificates – David Fields

Visitor Badges – Syd Ball

No significant reports were given on these topics.

Old Business

There was no discussion of old business.

New Business



Fred Peretz initiated a discussion on records and items of archival interest. Issues include defining records (content and duration), defining material of long-term archival interest, physical form and location of storage (electronic or paper copies, use of the web site, etc.), and purging of non-interest materials. Input from board members was solicited; a meeting specific to this topic may be called in the future.

Fred is creating an electronic version of a filing system, based on electronic PDF format, as a test case. Paper copies of board and annual meeting minutes from February 2003 through 2012 are being scanned, and electronic copies of these materials are available from 2012 through August 2017. Electronic copies currently on our website begin February 2021 and continue through today. A gap in electronic files exists between August 2017 and February 2021; paper versions are available for part of this period. Other board members may have files that help fill this gap.

Closing

The next board meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on March 13, 2023.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Peretz
Secretary, Friends of ORNL