



Minutes for the April 1, 2024, FORNL Board Meeting

Call to Order and Amendments to the Agenda – Ellen Smith

Ellen Smith called the in-person meeting to order at 9:43 a.m. A quorum was present. One agenda change was requested; David Mullins suggested we combine financial and membership reporting.

Attendees:

Officers present: Ellen Smith, President; Steve Overbury, Vice President; Fred Peretz, Secretary; and David Mullins, Treasurer.

Board Members Present: Syd Ball (via Zoom), Ray Garrett (via Zoom), Carolyn Krause, and Alan Lowe.

Adjunct member in attendance: Herb Krause, and Kent Williams.

Minutes of February Meetings – Fred Peretz

Minutes for the March 4 board meeting were circulated to the board with the agenda. They were approved and will be posted on the FORNL website.

Treasurer's and Membership Report – David Mullins

March data is not yet reported, as this meeting is on April 1. The certificate of deposit was reinvested for 9 months at 5.3% interest. The cost balance on lunches is slightly in the red, but still very close. There should be a slight positive cash flow in March. One small apparently random donation appeared during March.

We did get an offer of sponsorship from one lecture attendee; Alan Lowe also mentioned that AMSE might consider FORNL sponsorship. One suggestion would be for a lunch sponsor, with credit being given (such as a posting at the lunch table or on our website). The board appeared open to hearing a specific sponsorship proposal.

There are now 27 annual and 57 life members.

ORNL Liaison's Report – Annette Brun and Katy Brown

Annette was unable to attend but did send a report to Ellen. It was suggested that a good, updated flyer be generated for ORNL to consider inclusion in a retiree's packet as discussed later under outreach. The April 1 Wigner lecture Zoom broadcast has been limited to active ORNL employees only. On July 1, Marsha McNutt, former president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, will deliver a Wigner lecture on the natural sciences. Providing access to FORNL members will continue to be explored.

Annette is still pursuing a visitor badge application process, as well as obtaining permission to post the video of the recent Lind lecture for FORNL members.

Outreach:

Brochure, Poster, and Promotional Materials – Syd Ball, Fred Peretz

A copy of an old FORNL recruitment brochure was circulated; several aspects of the brochure were noted as out of date or not effectively conveying today's FORNL activities. A revised brochure is needed. Fred Peretz observed that he had begun a draft revised brochure a couple of years ago, including a map to the ETEC conference room. He will circulate that draft prior to the next board meeting.



AMSE and Public Tours – Alan Lowe

Alan commented that there was talk about starting the 2024 public bus tours in late April, but details are still being worked out. Because of decommissioning work at adjacent buildings, access to the ORNL Graphite Reactor will again be restricted. An alternative to the Visitors Center mural is being explored as the ORNL stop. As always, more volunteers are needed as museum docents and bus tour guides. Tony Schnadelbach is the AMSE contact for volunteers.

Monthly Lectures – Ellen Smith, Carolyn Krause, other board members

The March lecture was by Jerry M. Parks, ORNL's Group leader for Molecular Biophysics in the Biosciences Division, covering the use of computational chemistry and bioinformatics to understand the structure, function, and mechanism of proteins and enzymes.

The April 9 Earth Day talk will be by Bob Bolton, deputy of operations for the Next-Generation Ecosystem Experiments (NGEE) Arctic project led by ORNL.

Talks scheduled for upcoming meetings include:

- May 14 – Tony Mezzacappa, UTK Physics Department and Joint Institute for Computational Sciences at ORNL, speaking on gravitational waves from core collapse supernovae. (Herb)
- June 11 remains open.
- July 9 – Amy Elliot, addressing topics on additive manufacturing, robotics, and outreach.
- August 13 – Lee Riedinger, on the release of his new book on the UTK/ORNL partnership.
- September 10 – Zili Wu, ORNL Chemical Science Division and the Center for Nanophase Material Sciences at ORNL, addressing topics on surface chemistry and catalysis. (Steve)

A discussion on the possibility of Ivan Selin speaking on the history and future of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. From July 1, 1991, through June 30, 1995, Ivan Selin served as Chairman of the NRC. The board voted to proceed with Selin in June if he is available. Syd Ball will check on his availability.

Tomonori Saito was suggested as a speaker on converting plastic waste into usable materials, but concerns were expressed about his strong accent. Dustin Gilmer or Alex Sokolov were mentioned as alternative speakers. It was observed that Saito is closer to the actual research; the possibility of using a closed caption feature on Zoom might be explored.

The current list of potential speakers is being maintained as a Google online spreadsheet used for recruiting and scheduling prospective speakers. The worksheet can be viewed and edited by anyone, accessed via the link https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ETI6DIem5_jf_0rNfZUfHf5PycV11b2vIOpNT6KFjH0/.

Community Lectures – Kent Williams

The possibility of a State of the Laboratory talk in the fall continues to be pursued. A talk by Andrew Duncan addressing the use of drone technology for scientific investigations was suggested as a topic that might generate broad community interest.

Manhattan Project National Historical Park – Fred Peretz

Rangers will participate in Earth Day activities at ORNL and Y-12. The hiring of a second interpretive ranger at the Manhattan Project National Historical Park has been delayed again. Additional volunteers are needed to staff the NPS information desk at the Childrens' Museum. Ian Wilder is the ranger contact for volunteers.



STEM Education

Alan Lowe commented on support from AMSE educators to local schools, and suggested this might be a volunteer opportunity in the future. Alan will address the membership on these topics prior to the April 9 talk.

No activity on the Tennessee Science Bowl or the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair is expected for the remainder of the school year.

Media reports:

Newspapers – Carolyn Krause

An article on Jerry Parks' talk appeared on page 2 of the March 11 print edition of The Oak Ridger.

An article on plans for Kairos Power's construction of demonstration reactors and associated facilities at the East Tennessee Technology Park (K-25 site) was published in the March 27 edition of The Oak Ridger. Several calls were made to the Kairos marketing communications manager in California to get permission to publish KP's new image showing the buildings that would house the three reactors.

The news release announcing Bob Bolton's talk to FORNL on permafrost should appear in the print edition of The Oak Ridger on Monday, April 8.

Website – Jim Rome

No report was provided by Jim. Several board members expressed a desire for better content on the home page.

Facebook – Ellen Smith

No new activities were reported; announcements on meetings and news releases continue to be posted.

Old Business:

Tech Team and Virtual Hosting – Herb Krause, Carolyn Krause, Steve Overbury

Alan Lowe agreed to co-host the April 9 lecture, as others are not likely to be available on that date.

Herb Krause will continue to record, edit, and post hybrid meeting videos on the FORNL website but finds Zoom hosting of the board meetings a challenge (especially as board meetings and lunch lectures are usually on two successive days). If we choose to continue hybrid board meetings, another volunteer is needed for setup at AMSE. Having held two in-person meetings in a row, the board voted to return to Zoom for the May board meeting. Using the April meeting as a test, the use of FORNL equipment gave better board meeting results than earlier use of AMSE equipment.

The board agreed that we should acquire a dedicated FORNL Zoom account. A concern was raised that only one unique person can access (authenticate) such an account, rather than having it available for use by any board member. This will be explored further prior to obtaining a FORNL account.

Food for monthly luncheon meetings – Ellen Smith and others

Only 10 individuals purchased lunch at the March meeting; there was a concern that we bought more than necessary. With the possibility of eclipse travel the day before the April lecture, it is again expected that food demand may be



light. The board agreed that anticipating a similar 10 purchases is appropriate, on a first-come, first-served basis. Food will continue to be dispensed from 2 small tables in the meeting room at a cost of \$10, starting at 11:15 a.m. Additional volunteers to handle lunches would be appreciated.

New Business

Steve Overbury suggested that we give speakers some physical token of appreciation, such as a coffee cup with the FORNL logo. A possible cost mentioned was \$200 for 10 logo items. The board voted to approve such a purchase. Steve will investigate detailed options.

Herb Krause will transfer the FORNL President's gavel to Ellen Smith at the next viable opportunity.

Closing

The next board meeting will be held via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, May 13, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Peretz
Secretary, Friends of ORNL