

# Friends of Hartman Reserve

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Our mission is to support Hartman Reserve and its service to our communities through volunteerism, expertise, advocacy, and gifts.

## **Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**

**Date: April 13, 2021**

**Time: 5:30**

**Location: Online via Zoom**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Tom Blanford, Dwight Fritts, Nate Goetsch, Joel Haack, Kathy Green, Nina Hamer, Diane Holmes, Theresa Johnson, Laura Walter, Kendra Wohlert, Jim Young

**Absent:** Gretchen Ogden, Henry Frederick, Henry Giddens

**Also in Attendance:** Amy Davison, Hartman Reserve Unit Manager

- I. Call to Order – Jim Young, 5:32
- II. Review and Approval of Agenda - NG, JH 2nd, mc
- III. Review and Approval of Minutes of 3-09-2021 meeting emailed in advance of meeting - NH moved, DF 2nd, motion carried
- IV. Review and File Financial Statement for Audit – Kathy Green
  - A. Bank Account balances, donations, endowment - sent via email prior
    1. A few donations
    2. Minor expenses
  - B. Sizeable contribution received from Mrs. Allen - \$15,000 - Could use this donation rather than the Endowment to fund upcoming projects
- V. Hartman Unit Manager, Amy Davison –
  - A. April report (appended below)
  - B. FoHR board requests Amy share a “wish list” of projects for funding prior to May meeting. Amy has a list and will send this to Jim by the end of this week. A couple of high priority items:
    1. School field trip sponsorships are a high priority; cost for all field trips this year so far is approximately \$2300 (through the first week of June). A typical year’s field trip fees are about \$5000. Schools are providing these funds (about \$40/hr); cost is around \$150 for a full day field trip. Hartman fees are lower than many other sites. Transportation costs are higher.
    2. Experiences for Boys and Girls Club; hands on activities on site and an off site field trip for \$230.

### 3. Discussion

- a) How can we fund the schools who have not been able to afford these fees? Hartman has found funds to cover fees for some schools.
  - b) FoHR has received a large donation (Mrs. Allen) that could be used toward the field trip sponsorships.
  - c) Some schools are not doing field trips this year because of Covid.
  - d) We should use this money to get students to Hartman who would not otherwise be able to, rather than subsidizing schools who can afford this and could then allocate funds to other priorities that do not fit the FoHR mission. However, schools examine budgets every year and make tough decisions about field trips. It's possible that schools might not budget for field trips in the future if they receive funding this year. If schools increase the students who can attend, or new schools are able to come, that would meet donor intent.
  - e) Staff are reaching out to other organizations and clubs (B&G, YMCA, Jesse Cosby). FoHR could fund nonprofit youth-serving organizations to provide a certain number of field trips or special types of activities that require more supplies (e.g. dissection).
  - f) Amy can provide a list of specific field trips we could fund and also include programming for adults living with disabilities or seniors.
  - g) FoHR money can be given at any time and placed in a designated account.
  - h) Could FoHR provide a pool of money for serving underserved populations? Operation Threshold Key Cards give students a one-time pass to a Hartman summer program.
  - i) Field Trip Trust exists that provides funding for supplies for field trips (e.g. archery targets).
  - j) Hartman could report on the impact of funding, so that we can share that with our donors.
  - k) Field trip contract would include a note about FoHR funding. This would also be on the website.
  - l) Could our funds be used as scholarships to eliminate fees for schools who find the current fees a barrier? Could this be added to the field trip form?
  - m) This needs to be simple enough to not add a burden to Hartman staff.
4. Motion - I move that FoHR provide \$8000 to enhance the number and diversity of students in schools and youth-serving organizations who have access to Hartman programs and field trips from now through the next school year. LW moved, NH 2nd, motion carried.
- a) Should we commit to another year? This takes us to June 2022, and then we can re-evaluate.

## VI. Committees

### A. Executive Committee-standing – Jim

1. Met to set agenda for meeting
- B. Finance Committee-standing – Kathy
1. Budget draft sent via email. Does the \$15,000 donation go in the budget or not? Mrs. Allen has indicated a desire to continue supporting Friends of Hartman.
  2. The Finance Committee needs to propose a final draft and vote on it in May.
- C. Website update – Jim <https://www.friendsofhartman.org>
1. Clarification on our website renewal fees - paid in full through March 2022 after upgrade to allow embedded audio for the youth project.
  2. Jim is still blocked from accessing the website for editing due to problems related to a prior Square account. Weebly tech service appears to be helping.
- D. Friends merchandise update – Nina
1. Xpressions is behind. Orders by noon tomorrow will be run next week with pick up or delivery on the 23rd. Nina can deliver items to Hartman for pick up.
  2. If paid for shipping but prefer pick up, should be able to get a refund. Nina will check.
- E. Youth Board members – Henry and Henry - absent this evening and Jim has not received their report.
1. Signs for audio tour - need to know cost of signs
  2. Cost of the website will not be deducted from the Youth budget
- F. Accessibility initiatives -Diane, Theresa, and Joel
1. Memory Cafe update - potting succulents as first activity
  2. Theresa is working on training for student volunteers (has 7 or 8).
  3. Hartman is donating the space for the event.
  4. Not technically a Hartman program, so Hartman can't handle RSVP. We can use the friends gmail, but "email only" could go against goals of inclusivity.
    - a) Will be promoted through Hartman and FoHR newsletters, along with local organizations (e.g., Area Agency on Aging, Alzheimer's Association).
    - b) Theresa will see if one of the organizations can provide a phone number for RSVP.
  5. Diane is working with Paul and Tyler from Together We Play, and they are going to do a walk-through on Thursday afternoon with Diane and Amy.
- G. Inclusion Committee Conversation
1. Further discussion of Goals, intent, moving forward
  2. Discussed at Exec Board
    - a) Learn more about barriers - survey, other information sources
    - b) Issue for county staff, supporting their efforts to build diversity and inclusion
    - c) Want to seek more diversity on our board. All board members be alert for opportunities to invite those you are connected to.

d) This will become an Action Plan item, an updated version of which Jim will provide before the May meeting.

3. Discussion

a) Hawkeye CC has a one-day workshop May 20 from 8:30-11:00 at Buchanan Hall (or by Zoom) “Meet Diversity’s Friends: Equality, Inclusion, and Engagement.” Perhaps a couple of board members could attend, giving us a fact-based foundation for this work. Diane can send a copy of the flyer to the board.

b) Could FoHR cover the cost of \$75/attendee if that’s a barrier? Kathy moves that the Friends of Hartman board will pay the registration fee for any board member wishing to attend this workshop. DF 2nd. Motion carried.

(1) Diane plans to attend and does not request the fee coverage.

(2) Enroll with a credit card and ask for reimbursement from Kathy.

c) Could FoHR sponsor Hartman staff to attend? Amy supports sending Connie or herself.

(1) Kathy wishes to amend the motion to include “board members or Hartman Reserve staff.”

(2) DF approves the amendment

(3) Jim restates the motion with amendment. Motion carried.

H. Newsletter update –next newsletter for May 15

1. Articles: Memory Café article – Theresa; ask friends for expertise in inclusion/accessibility – Nina; feature about the Youth board members, project, and opportunities for any new youth director next year – Laura; becoming a board member – skills needed, etc. – Jim; donations push – Kathy.

2. Other article ideas?

3. April 30<sup>th</sup> will be the deadline for submission of articles

VII. New Business

A. May Meeting – in person – discussion

1. The Black Hawk County Conservation Board was intending to meet in person in May.

2. Not all board members will have been vaccinated by then. We hope to resume in person in fall.

B. Nominations committee

1. If interested in serving, please indicate by May.

a) Nina volunteers.

2. Work through summer to identify members whose terms are expiring, new board members if desired.

3. Hoping to add members for diversity, inclusion, adding new skills (tech). One new Youth board member sought.

VIII. Adjourn - Kendra moved to adjourn, Dwight seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned 6:59 pm

April 13, 2021

Friends of Hartman Reserve

**What is happening now at Hartman?**

- Planning for Spring/summer projects: Bird walk, rain garden re-vamp, hobbit house, and development of nest area.
- Crayfish have arrived in the touch tank.
- Finishing West Wing exhibit area including 5-ft salamander for vernal pool area
- Hiring Summer Interns - hoping to hire another AmeriCorps service member
- Planning summer programs
- Working on Sugar Shack Memorial
- Spring Field Trips
- Butterfly exhibit will be back after April 12
- Milkweed seeding

**Up-coming programs:**

- **4-11 April Forest Bathing** 9-12
- **4-11 2nd Sunday Speaker** 2-3 Geocaching
- **4-13 Katie will be guest speaker for PRAS**
- **4-18 Wild Backyards:** Native plants for your backyard 10:30-11:30
- **4-22 Spring Wildflower Hike:** 6-7pm
- **4-22 Nesting Naturalist:** 11-11:45
- **4-24 Harry Potter Camp for Adults:** 12-5pm
- **5-2 Spring wildflower Hikes:** 9-10, 10-11
- **5-9 Wild Edible Hikes :** 3:30-5, 5-6:30
- **5-9 May Forest Bathing :** 9-12

**Project Updates:**

- Brick sales continue for the walkway
- Exhibit work continuing. Solar Turtle is in process of being installed. It is in the window and we will be connecting it
- Prairie Burns around the Buckles and Nature Center, Lucy's meadow, and large prairie near Shirey
- Finish syruping were able to get about 20 gallons of syrup.

