

# Friends of Hartman Reserve

---

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: March 9, 2021**

**Time: 5:30**

**Location: online via Zoom**

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

**Absent:** none

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

- I. Call to Order at 5:33 pm – Jim Young
- II. Review and Approval of Agenda - NH moved; KW seconded; motion carried.
- III. Review and Approval of Minutes of 2-09-2021 meeting - sent via email prior to meeting - DF moved; KG seconded; motion carried.
- IV. Review and File Financial Statement for Audit – Kathy Green – sent via email prior to meeting
  - A. Bank Account balances, donations, endowment
  - B. About \$15,000 in both money market and checking
  - C. Endowment
  - D. Received today: \$1000 check from Catherine Livingston Fund to be used for sponsorship of Visiting Artist
  - E. No significant upcoming bills
  - F. Financial statements will be filed for audit
- V. Hartman Unit Manager, Amy Davison –
  - A. March report – appended to meeting agenda.
  - B. Maple Syrup Madness - “Cocktails with Connie” and “Cooking with Connie” videos going up on YouTube and shared on FaceBook; Trees are producing little sap and lower than normal sugar content, so requiring longer boiling time.
  - C. Spring Break camps are nearly full.
  - D. In person Nestling Naturalists starting soon.
  - E. Katy/ie (?) was interviewed on Horticulture Friday on IPR.

- F. Snake enclosure enhancements are nearly done.
- G. Katy and Katie led field trip with 300 kids at schools in New Hartford.
- H. Hartman is applying for Iowa Workforce Development grant as new funding stream for Urban Youth Corps.
- I. March 14 - Katy and Katie will be on the Steele Report about maple syruping.
- J. Solar turtle should arrive this week.
- K. Only have two exhibits to finish; expecting to be done by July.
- L. Possibly looking for volunteers to help with greenhouse assembly.

## VI. Committees

- A. Executive Committee-standing – Jim - Met to set agenda for tonight’s meeting; no other report.
- B. Finance Committee-standing – Kathy - Committee will prepare next year’s budget in April for the board to review in May.
- C. Website update – Jim
  - 1. <https://www.friendsofhartman.org>
  - 2. Jim has reorganized the minutes page by calendar year; Miranda (and Henry F.) continues to help with editing.
- D. Friends merchandise update – Nina
  - 1. Link is active!
  - 2. First run orders need to be in by Friday; Nina will pick up items at Xpressions and deliver to Hartman for pick up.
- E. Youth Board members – Henry and Henry
  - 1. Henry F. has added a tab for the audio guide to the Friends website.
  - 2. Weebly account required an upgrade to include embedded audio; Youth members took this out of their budget (\$104); unsure of when that annual expense will be due.
  - 3. QR codes require a yearly subscription to keep them active; this costs \$100/year; Youth members in future can decide whether to continue this.
  - 4. Youth members request an increase to their budget to purchase signage to complete the project.
    - a) DF: FoHR benefits from the improved subscription; should FoHR absorb this expense, allowing the Youth to spend this on other aspects of their project?
    - b) The Youth will update the board on signage cost at the April meeting.
  - 5. Once signs are completed, the Youth members will turn them over to Hartman staff.
    - a) Amy asks that the Youth plot out the locations where the signs would go.
    - b) Henry F. has a map that he will send to Amy. The path starts and ends at the Interpretive Center and follows an easily accessed, wider trail.

6. FoHR can monitor usage statistics through the QR code hub.
  7. Goal is installation by May.
- F. Inclusion/Accessibility initiatives -Diane, Theresa, and Joel
1. Members request to separate Inclusion from Accessibility work
    - a) JH: Committee strength is in accessibility; don't have expertise and knowledge of the path to follow toward inclusion of full cultural and ethnic diversity of Cedar Valley; committee is looking for discussion of creation of a different committee and bringing in experts from outside the Friends board.
    - b) DH: As we look at recruitment of board members, we should seek to identify culturally and ethnically diverse people who might be interested in joining us.
    - c) JY: Executive Board approves of the creation of a new committee, separate from the Accessibility Committee, to work on inclusivity.
  2. Defining goals and tasks
    - a) Task 1: Identify individuals who could work with us on cultural and ethnic diversity and invite them to apply to be on the board.
    - b) KG: Could Hartman staff recommend people? AD: Unfortunately, no. Tavis Hall from Experience Waterloo says that many Waterloo residents don't feel comfortable coming to Cedar Falls. County staff are discussing ways to improve diversity of participation; looking to outside experts for study and guidance on what to do.
    - c) JH: There is more diversity of people walking the paths. Could FoHR reach out to individuals in groups that board members have contact with?
    - d) TB: Willie Barney is a school superintendent (at Meskwaki) with strong connections to the community. NH would be willing to reach out to him to see if he would like to be nominated for the board or could suggest others to consider.
    - e) DH: Embark (supports refugees), Jesse Cosby Center, and MLK Center organization might be other groups to contact to get information on opinions and needs.
    - f) AD: As a government entity, Hartman can't offer programming for a specific ethnic or cultural group; all events must be open to the full public. Hartman staff are looking for groups of people who are interested in nature and will take nature to their community if they can't come to Hartman; woods are not seen as a safe space by some cultural groups
  3. KW: This is a big issue that may take more than a committee to do; need to define goals and what outcomes we hope to see; the full board should discuss this again.
  4. JY: will keep this on the agenda for next month.
  5. Inclusion committee current work

- a) TJ: working on training volunteers for Memory Cafe.
- b) DH: This spring, need to review needs identified in the accessibility assessment and prioritize projects. AD will meet with Diane on site.

G. Newsletter update –next newsletter for May 15

- 1. Planning feature story on Memory Café; also could use this issue to reach out to our Friends for expertise in inclusion/accessibility.
- 2. April 30<sup>th</sup> will be the deadline for submission of articles.
- 3. Planning to release new issues quarterly on the following dates: February 15, May 15, August 15 (to communicate about upcoming annual meeting), November 15 (plug Endow Iowa tax credit).
- 4. Question for the full board: Do we want to share the newsletter (and opt-in link) on the website? How will we communicate about donors-only events (through bcc mass emails, paper mailing)?
  - a) KW: Newsletter could also lead us to more Fiends; DH: this will add to our Friends database; TB agrees.
  - b) JY will work with Henry and Miranda to create a new tab under “stay connected” on the website; LW will provide links for the subscription form and past issue.

VII. New Business

- A. Recommendations for projects using Endowment funds now - sent
- B. \$15,500 left to spend from Endowment this year
- C. Recommendations from Executive Board
  - 1. Landscape plan investigation - \$1100
  - 2. Video editing training - \$35
  - 3. Giant nest from playscape - \$1000
  - 4. Annual sponsorship for VA - \$1000 (JY has received forma
  - 5. Trail Rx pocket guide - \$900
  - 6. Hobbit House - FoHR contribution of \$1000 to \$2000 (JY asks for a motion on specific amount)
    - a) DF: One-time fee, any maintenance needed? AD: will have a shingle roof that county staff can replace.
    - b) NH: How much has been committed to the project so far? AD: County has money in an account for the Playscape area from Gallagher Foundation. Friends contribution will help determine how many elements of the Playscape can be installed this year.
    - c) DF: Are all of these elements weatherproof? AD: Yes, all are meant to be permanently outdoors.
    - d) NG: Any items not on this list? AD: Will be looking for recommendations on plant materials for the new landscaping near the parking area and may need to purchase some seed and plants. Offering free field trips and programs to schools is a wish list item.

7. Nina moves to fund the Hobbit House at \$2000 and that the total amount of the donation be \$6,035 to include all the rest of the recommended projects; DF seconded; motion carried.
8. JY: FoHR would like to create a schedule for Amy to bring us requests for the remaining money to spend. There were less immediate items on the original list from Amy, and we can consider them at future meetings. Board member input on specific items is requested.

D. Other?

VIII. Adjourn - DH moves we adjourn; KG seconds; motion carried - Meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm