

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: April 12, 2022

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Hartman Reserve Nature Center, with the option of attending virtually through Zoom

Board Members in Attendance: Tom Blanford, Dwight Fritts, Nate Goetsch, Joel Haack, Kathy Green, Nina Hamer, Diane Holmes, Emma Krgo, Laura Walter, Bridgett Wood, Jim Young (some members joining remotely via Zoom)

Absent: Theresa Johnson, Kolby Kestel, Gretchen Ogden

Also in Attendance: Amy Davison, Hartman Reserve Unit Manager

- I. Call to Order by Board President Jim Young, 5:40 pm (delayed due to technical difficulties with Zoom)
- II. Review and Approval of Agenda. Nina Hamer moved to approve the agenda, Nate Goetsch seconded, motion carried.
- III. Review and Approval of Minutes
 - A. No corrections noted
 - B. Kathy Green moved, Dwight Fritts seconded, motion carried.
- IV. Review and File Financial Statement for Audit – Kathy Green
 - A. Bank Account balances, donations, endowment sent to Board via email prior to meeting
 - B. Checking, Money Market, and Foundation accounts are relatively stable
 - C. New donations have covered recent expenses
 1. Received \$2600 in donations to the Friends account from 18 donors, many of whom had not donated in a long time. These donations helped

cover the \$3000 check given to Black Hawk County Conservation Board (BHCCB) for the new accessible drinking fountain

2. Received four donations to the endowment totalling \$800
3. Received two PayPal donations in March which have not yet cleared our bank. Kathy learned that you have to log into PayPal to transfer the funds to our bank. Tom says that there is an “autosweep” feature that will automatically move the funds into our bank account. We currently receive an email for each PayPal donation which includes donor names and contact information.
4. FoHR was named in a will leaving 25% of the deceased person’s estate to the Friends. We don’t yet know what amount it will be. The Friends acknowledge the kindness of this donor.
5. The Friends thank Kathy for the work of writing and sending the appeal letters that have yielded so many donations.

D. Finance reports have been reviewed and filed for audit

V. Report from Hartman Unit Manager, Amy Davison

A. Full report sent via email with meeting agenda

B. Highlights

1. Recent Memory Café featured Opie the Opossum
2. Opie has been on several field trips
3. People seemed to like the Maple Syrup Festival reservation system, and it will likely continue, with more time slots to accommodate more attendees
4. All field trips are booked for this spring!
5. Four AmeriCorps members coming in summer
6. Sent photos of kids’ sugar shack
7. John Deere volunteers coming on the 19th to build the greenhouse
8. Water fountain has arrived and will be installed after frost danger, near the fire suppression building
9. Amy has set up a meeting with the city planner to talk about how neighborhood construction plans will affect Hartman
10. Butterfly bench will be at the end of the Pollinator Parkway

VI. Committees

A. Executive Committee - met to set agenda for this meeting, nothing else to report

B. Finance Committee - no further updates beyond what was reported for review above

C. Communications and Outreach - Social media update

1. Thanks to Tom Blanford, Anna Blanford, and Kathy Green for setting up the Friends’ PayPal account that is now working on the donations tab on the website

2. Facebook Discussion

- a) No response from Board when asked for a member to take on maintenance of social media accounts
- b) If we drop the Group and set up a Page, then other people can't post to it. The original intent of the Group was to allow members to post. Currently the only person posting to the Group is Theresa with Memory Café. A page might not be scammed as easily.
- c) Nina has been deleting and blocking scammers who are trying to use our Group to sell merchandise.
- d) Do we want to use Facebook to solicit donations? If so, would we need to set it up as a Page rather than a Group?
- e) Tom – if we switch to a Page from a Group, it would be less of a free-for-all, and we can set some parameters (could allow guests to post or comment with approval). We could have our donation information on the Page. We would have to be more diligent about regular posting. It would take someone to keep contact fresh. Board members would need to help generate content.
- f) Nina – we can also change settings to lock down posts on the Group. We could potentially put the link to donate in the profile or bio of the group, and can do a featured post (pinned to top) to solicit for donations.
- g) Tom – if we restrict the Group to limit the ability of people to post, then it would deviate from the original goal of the Group, but we should probably do something to deter the scammers. If we don't have someone to take on the administration, then we should probably stay with the current Group.
- h) Nina offers to change settings to secure the Group; administrator approval of posts, possibly also comments; Nina has blocked previous scammers
- i) Nate and Tom also offer to be added as an administrator on the Group
- j) At the next Board meeting, Nina will walk through the administrator tasks to instruct new admins

D. Accessibility

1. Braille signage

- a) Diane - Committee is still waiting for a cost estimate for Braille signage

- b) Amy – has not heard back from Mudd after rejecting the first design; would like all signs for the facility to come from one company for the sake of consistency; Amy will follow up with them

E. Diversity

1. Jim - asks if field trips are bringing in more diverse populations
2. Amy - All W'loo second graders are coming again, some outlying schools (Nashua Plainfield)
3. Amy went to training led by Gina Weekley (a Cedar Valley native) and learned about unconscious bias; the Board could also go through the training via CVNonprofit Association (www.cedarvalleynonprofits.org)
4. Kathy - asks about Hartman connecting with clubs and organizations that serve diverse communities such as Boys and Girls Club.
5. Amy - Hartman staff have brought kids to Hartman and have taken free programming to their sites; kids love it, but the site staff don't want to do the activities that the kids want to do. Kids come here for field trips, but they don't come back with their families, when their parents don't feel comfortable and welcomed. Hartman staff are willing to take programming to neighborhoods, but there is only one tiny county-owned park in East Waterloo. Amy would like to talk with Gina Weekley about these issues.
6. Board members can attend CVNonprofits trainings without being a member of the organization, for a somewhat higher fee.

F. Action plan

G. Youth Board members

1. Emma Krgo has talked with Kolby, and they both like the idea of Emma focusing on the greenhouse and Kolby working with the opossum
2. GH project – recycled pots will need to be bleached; some plants are on order (ramps for wild edibles); transplanting
3. Opossum project – Kolby will need to meet with staff to talk about his plans for building

VII. New Business

A. Finance Committee suggests exploring target mailing of Hartman neighborhood (Nate)

1. What would it cost?
2. How to do it? Rather than paying for a list of addresses from the post office, use a more targeted approach by picking addresses of near neighbors through the County Assessor's webpage and comparing them to our current mailing list; could break this up and give each board member a street or section to work on

3. Could use it for seasonal mailings to build a sense of a “Hartman neighborhood” (Nina)
 4. Jim and Nate will meet separately to go through the process before the next meeting
- B. Reconstruction project
1. No recent updates
 2. Amy will attend next few City Council meetings to listen
 3. Amy has emailed the City Planner to set up a meeting
 4. There was a meeting last Tuesday when the issue of sump pumps and storm water runoff came up. The goal is to get ROWs of 18 feet, but some streets are currently 12 feet. Letters with maps have been sent to neighbors from Greenwood to Cherry. This sets a timeline for meetings with each homeowner to discuss the rights-of-way. It could be 3-4 months before ground-breaking starts.
 5. Erosion in Hartman ravines is a concern. The planners hope to resolve storm water and erosion issues through the reconstruction project. Every house will be inspected and all issues will need to be resolved by tying into the new storm sewer system. This should divert storm water from the ravines.
- C. Black Hawk County Deer Management Zone – Recent meeting provided informations: Hunters must apply and pay for a special tag and undergo training and a proficiency test; There are very strict rules for Hartman; Management plans were developed after tracking of deer to understand patterns of movement, birth rates, and need for population control; all harvested deer are checked for chronic wasting disease, which is highly contagious and known from neighboring counties
- D. Future of the Board
1. Laura leaving as member and Secretary at end of current term
 2. Renewals – need to know intent between now and May
 3. Need nominations for leadership positions (self-nominations are welcomed)
- VIII. Adjournment - Nina Hamer moved to adjourn, Nate Goetsch seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Laura Walter.