

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 Annual Meeting **September 10, 2019**

Location: Hartman Reserve Nature Center

Board Members in Attendance: Kendra Wohlert, Dwight Fritts, Laura Wilson, Laura Walter, Diane Holmes, Jim Young, Kathy Green, Jeremia Matz, Henry Frederick

Absent: Sherm Lundy (in Colorado)

Guests: Amy Davison, Hartman Reserve Unit Manager

Friends: Henry Giddens, Roger White, Nate Goetsch, Roger DeGroote, Debbie DeGroote, E.J. Gallagher, Joey Gallagher

- I. Meeting was called to order by Acting President, Kendra Wohlert, at 5:32 pm
- II. Introductions of Friends in attendance (see list above)
- III. Voting of officers and new or returning directors
 - A. Acting President Kendra Wohlert named the slate of officers from the Nominations Committee, then called for nominations from the floor.
 1. Nominee for President: Kendra Wohlert. No other nominations.
 2. Nominee for Vice President: Jim Young. No other nominations.
 3. Nominee for Secretary: Laura Walter. No other nominations.
 4. Kathy Green nominated Jeremia Matz for Treasurer; he accepted. No other nominations.
 - B. Jim Young suggested a motion for a vote of affirmation for the slate of candidates.
 - C. Dwight Fritts moved for a vote of affirmation for the slate of candidates. Kathy Green seconded. Motion carried.
 - D. Returning board directors
 1. Kendra read the names of returning board directors: Laura Wilson, Laura Walter, and Diane Holmes.
 2. Kathy Green moved to accept returning directors. Dwight seconded. Motion carried.
 - E. New board applicants

1. Kendra presented the names of new applicants to be board directors who have met with the Nominating Committee: Tom Blanford, Nate Goetsch, Teresa Johnson, and Samuel Miller.
 2. Dwight Fritts nominated Mike Ohrt from the floor. Mike is a financial advisor and long-time Waterloo resident who is already involved in many Hartman events and activities.
 3. Kendra shared the application of Nina Hamer, a Hartman neighbor, who brings strengths in marketing, financials, and grant writing to the board.
 4. Diane Holmes moved to accept the slate of new applicants for board director. Laura Wilson seconded. Motion carried.
- F. Youth board directors
1. Kendra stated that the bylaws allow up to two youth directors.
 2. Henry Fredrickson is returning.
 3. Henry Giddens is the new nominee.
 4. Dwight moved to accept both youth board directors. Kathy seconded. Motion carried.
- IV. Approval of new mission statement
- A. Kendra read aloud the new mission statement: Our mission is to support Hartman Reserve and its service to our communities through volunteerism, expertise, advocacy, and gifts.
 - B. Jim moved to accept the new mission statement. Jeremia seconded. Motion carried.
- V. Approval of bylaws
- A. Kendra reviewed the process leading to the final draft of the new bylaws: they were announced at the July meeting, discussed at the August meeting, and revised based on comments from the board.
 - B. Diane moved to accept the new bylaws. Kathy seconded. Motion carried.
- VI. Kendra read aloud the 2018-19 Year End Report, which included the following:
- A. Events, programming, and professional development opportunities for Hartman staff supported by FOHR funding
 - B. Changes addressed by the FOHR Board and Black Hawk County Conservation Board during transition year:
 1. Fully autonomous Friends organization with clear, defined roles
 2. County assumed staff salaries and large annual fundraisers that support these salaries
 3. FOHR transferred restricted funds to the county, designated for support of specific projects at Hartman
 4. New postal address, website, and transfer of FOHR materials to off-site storage
 5. Transfer of FOHR investments to our endowment fund at Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa (CFNEIA) with expectation of annual disbursements that will support programs, events, projects, and preservation of Hartman Reserve.

6. Writing of new mission statement and bylaws to fit new roles and initiation of strategic planning process

VII. Questions from Friends

- A. Roger White asked how the Friends will be different from day to day.
 1. Kendra replied that, in the past, the Friends took considerable guidance from Hartman staff. Now, FOHR will make its own financial decisions through our Board. We will be in communication with county staff, but will not seek direction or approval from them.
 2. Jim related that this will put us in compliance with state law regarding Friends organizations.
 3. Dwight added that it will allow us to maintain our status as a 501(C)(3) organization.
- B. Roger asked whether Hartman would still receive funding from FOHR and whether the Friends would still host annual fundraising events like the Maple Syrup Festival.
 1. Kendra replied that FOHR will still fund programs and projects at Hartman. However, the events had become so large that it took paid staff to run them. Now, the large fundraisers will be managed by the county. Funds will still support Hartman through the Black Hawk County Conservation Board budget. Friends will be involved as volunteers and may assist with specific activities such as the wine pull at Under the Harvest Moon.
 2. Kendra added that FOHR funds in the future would be coming in the form of disbursements from the endowment held at CFNEIA (after a waiting period of 8 quarters). We will be looking for sponsorship opportunities to use those funds. One goal is to keep down the FOHR operational costs.
- C. Roger asked whether there would still be Friends memberships.
 1. Kendra stated that this is not completely decided at this point. However, Friends have opportunities to support Hartman in two ways:
 - a) Donations to the FOHR endowment at CFNEIA
 - b) Donations to Hartman through Black Hawk County Conservation
 2. Kathy added that either way, donations are tax deductible.
- D. Roger DeGroot asked whether Hartman would have enough staff to put on large events like Maple Syrup Festival and Under the Harvest Moon.
 1. Kendra replied that FOHR will still advocate and help get volunteers.
 2. Amy Davison stated that the County has enough staff to organize events. Staff from other BHCCB sites will help with large events.
- E. Roger DeGroot asked about the current number of members of FOHR and whether there has been an increase or decrease.
 1. Kendra said that there are approximately 183 current Friends members. She said that donations were down this past year.
 2. Kendra added that the FOHR Board is still working out the details of whether there will continue to be FOHR memberships, or just Friends.

3. Kendra said that one issue is that we don't want FOHR to be competing with Hartman for donations.
 4. Amy added that Friends may receive an Annual Appeal letter from Black Hawk County Conservation.
 - a) This will include options for choosing to designate a donation for particular purposes.
 - b) The County can't ask people to pay for "memberships" in Hartman, because citizens already own County parks.
 - F. Roger White urges the continuation of the Friends of Hartman Reserve.
 - G. E.J. Gallagher also supports continuation of the Friends. He thinks that our state chronically underfunds parks and that counties need to have other funding streams to take better care of their parks.
- VIII. Jim Young moved to adjourn the meeting. Dwight Fritts seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.