

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: December 14, 2021

Time: 5:30 pm

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

Board Members in Attendance: Dwight Fritts, Nate Goetsch (Zoom), Kathy Green, Nina Hamer, Diane Holmes, Theresa Johnson, Kolby Kestel, Emma Krgo, Laura Walter, Kendra Wohlert, Bridgett Wood, Jim Young

Absent: Tom Blanford, Joel Haack, Gretchen Ogden

Also in Attendance: Amy Davison, Hartman Reserve Unit Manager

- I. Call to Order 5:39pm - Jim Young, President
- II. Review and Approval of Agenda - would like flexibility to move “wish list” discussion earlier in the meeting
 - A. TJ moves, DF seconded, mc
- III. Review and Approval of Minutes of 11-9-2021 meeting; file sent via email to Board prior to this meeting - Jim sent the Exec Board minutes instead; will resend and then vote on approval in January
- IV. Review and File Financial Statement for Audit – Kathy Green
 - A. Bank Account balances, donations, endowment sent to Board via email prior to meeting; seeing steady gains on the endowment since moving it to CFNEIA.

- B. Tomorrow is the last day to withdraw funds from the endowment for “wish list” items.
 - C. Finance reports have been reviewed and filed for audit
 - D. Jeanne Miller is retiring from the Finance Committee after many years of service on the committee and on the board; board members are invited to sign a card
- V. Report from Hartman Unit Manager, Amy Davison
- A. Full report sent via email with meeting agenda
 - 1. Woodland Wonderland events were successful, though the weekend with reindeer was better attended.
 - a) Hartman has booked reindeer for two weekends next year (\$1300/weekend) - would Friends like to sponsor (no need to decide now)
 - b) Friends’ donation of snacks and volunteer time would be appreciated again next year
 - c) Mike Bonzer dressed as Santa Fox in the Hobbit House, but little kids were scared.
 - 2. Maple Syrup Festival will be March 10-12, 2022
 - 3. Kathy Green - UNI has an Industrial Tech Club that may be interested in construction projects
 - B. Discussion
- VI. Committees
- A. Executive Committee-standing - Jim
 - 1. Kathy and Jim attended a presentation by Andrew Morse regarding developing a land acknowledgment statement
 - 2. Became clear that it would be better that Black Hawk County Conservation Board do the statement
 - 3. An alternative way for Friends to contribute would be to sponsor an event highlighting Meskwaki arts and culture. This should be something of benefit and value to them.
 - 4. One ranger in Black Hawk Park has been working on the issue of the sign at the park entrance.
 - 5. Friends would like to support any efforts by the county to acknowledge and support Native people in our state and area.
 - B. Finance Committee-standing - Kathy
 - 1. Will email committee members to set date for next meeting.
 - C. Communication and Outreach (name to be determined) - Dwight, Kolby, and Nina

1. Website - Anna Blanford is working on updates as a volunteer and Nina would like to take on this role going forward.
 - a) Our Weebly account is renewed in March. This would be an opportunity to change platforms, if needed. We should check to see if it meets standards for accessibility.
 - b) We have a 5-yr contract on the URL
2. Facebook page vs. group
 - a) If we had a page, friends of the page (or everyone) could post to the page by “tagging” Friends of Hartman Reserve
3. Instagram Education presentation (Kolby)
 - a) IG Stories are short-lived posts
 - b) + button lets you post, ~ messenger
 - c) Magnifying glass icon - search
 - d) “Reels” are short videos similar to tiktok
 - e) Profile at bottom right
 - f) Double-click to like a post
 - g) Click speech cloud to comment
 - h) Share button (paper airplane), shares a post to your story
 - i) Can add music to video posts (reels)
 - j) Can share posts and stories directly to Facebook
 - k) # indicates hashtag which helps you connect to a new audience, example - #friendsofhartmanreserve
 - l) Can add fundraiser to a post
 - m) Click heart icon to see page activity (who likes your posts or comments)
 - n) Very similar to Facebook
4. Newsletter
 - a) Add blurb about winter merch to next newsletter
 - b) Please send email to Laura with any items or photos for next newsletter (February); a searchable subject heading helps
 - c) Need to train someone to take over the newsletter by August 2022
 - d) Diane and Amy may draft an item for the newsletter in memory of Tyler Greene, who passed away this fall after an accident.
5. Board needs to consider the purpose of communications, which will guide decision making regarding social media and outreach.
 - a) Need to clarify expectations and roles, based on our goals and purpose.

- b) Probably need something in the bylaws about this. It may be in our action plan notes.
- c) Instagram might help us recruit younger people
- d) Facebook helps promote events like Memory Cafe
- e) The Communications Committee could meet with the Executive Committee in January to discuss these issues and share outcomes with the Board in February.

D. Friends merchandise update - Nina

- 1. No sales recently, unless they were delivered directly to home (we are not notified of these sales)
- 2. Should we maintain the store?

E. Youth Board members - Emma and Kolby - project ideas

- 1. Making a watch tower to provide a view - Amy says that the insurance company will not allow this.
- 2. Improving recycling or starting compost, but depends on how often these would be used. Amy - Could work on better recycling at private events. Compost requires care, but might work well in combination with the greenhouse, once it is assembled. The greenhouse will be used to grow pollinator plants and plants to use in planter boxes and native plantings.
- 3. Amy suggests meeting (in person or via Zoom) with Katy and Katie to find out what is needed.

F. Accessibility initiatives - Diane, Theresa, and Joel

- 1. Met last week to discuss assessment that Paul and Tyler Greene did last year, and we have met several goals
- 2. Four projects remain for the near future
 - a) Two drinking fountains are not ADA compliant
 - (1) Outdoor fountains have to be shut off in the winter
 - (2) Range is from \$1000 to 10,000 depending on options
 - (3) Amy is doing research
 - b) Braille signs - Theresa found a resource for Braille information. All rooms should have signs in Braille, and Diane is working on finding sources.
 - (1) Amy talked to the caregiver for a community member who is blind and received suggestions including having more tactile materials in exhibit spaces.
 - c) Electronic and social media accessibility - Amy is checking with staff on this

(1) Black Hawk County is on mycountyparks website, and staff have little control over that

d) Outdoor amphitheatre is not accessible to people with mobility issues

(1) Staff see problems with hydrology due to impermeable surfaces, so would need to consider using permeable pavers

G. Inclusivity/Diversity Committee

VII. New Business

A. Projects – Wish list

1. Amy has discussed with staff and came up with the top priority “wish list” items to total \$3967

a) Items #2, #3, #4 = \$2258 (storage shelving and totes)

b) 3 archery targets

c) 11 new pairs of snowshoes

2. Discussion

a) Interactive TV- may still fund this project with Gallagher Foundation money

b) Snow shoes and archery are investments that bring more people here, while shelving seems like a county responsibility. Our focus is supporting programming. To get shelving, staff would have to budget for 2024. After January, we will have a new disbursement from the endowment that will allow us to support additional items from the list that directly affect programming.

c) \$973.78 (donated by Friends for Urban Youth Corps and unspent due to cancellation of this program, could be combined with remaining endowment disbursement, could allow us to purchase 20 pairs of snow shoes.

3. Nate Goetsch moves that we support items 2, 3, and 4 (shelving, storage units, and totes), three archery targets, and twenty pairs of snowshoes, by combining leftover Urban Youth Corps funds (\$973.78) with the disbursement from the endowment for a total of nearly \$5000. Nina Hamer seconds. No further discussion. Motion carried.

a) Amy suggests stickers with the friends logo to place on the new items

B. Winter Wonderland debrief (in Amy’s

C. Other

1. Connie has asked Friends to sponsor Maple Syrup Fest, and we will discuss and vote on this in January
2. Friday night at MSF has limited attendance, which would be good to promote for Memory Cafe participants

VIII. Adjourn Dwight Fritts moved, Diane seconded, motion carried. 7:24 pm