



Minutes for the May 8, 2023 FORNL Board Meeting

Opening – Herb Krause

Herb Krause called the Zoom meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. A quorum was present.

Attendees:

Officers present: Herb Krause, President; Fred Peretz, Secretary; David Mullins, Treasurer.

Board Members Present: Syd Ball, Al Ekkebus, David Fields, Ray Garrett, and Carolyn Krause.

Adjunct members in attendance: Bob Compton and Jim Rome.

Announcements – Herb Krause

The UT-Battelle/ORNL check associated with our March 2023 grant award was received on April 28 and deposited. This check for \$3000 was originally sent to our mailbox at 1143 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Suite 107A but was returned to Jennifer Shell at ORNL as they could not accept certified mail. David Mullins then had the check mailed to his home address and deposited it several days later.

Lab Liaison –Katy Brown

No questions were submitted for Katy Brown's attention.

Secretary –Fred Peretz

Minutes for the April 10 board meeting were circulated to the board with the agenda. They were approved and will be posted on the FORNL website.

Treasurer – David Mullins

There was \$3,000 income from the UT-Battelle grant and no significant expenses last month. There was also income from one annual and one lifetime membership; at this point membership dues are covering expenses for the year.

The IRS Form 990-N has been filed, and the state 501c(3) tax exemption form will soon be filed. The treasurer's report will be posted on the website.

Membership – David Mullins

We added one new annual member and one lifetime member last month. We now have 40 annual members and 55 lifetime members.

Luncheon Lectures - Ellen Smith, Carolyn Krause, Bob Compton

The April 11 lecture was by David L. McCollum of the Mobility and Energy Transitions Analysis (META) Group at ORNL, titled "Science and Society: Working Together for a Nature-Inclusive Energy Transition."



Upcoming meetings:

The May 9 lecture will be by Ken Tobin, ORAU Chief Research and University Partnerships Officer. His talk will be on the ORAU-ORNL partnership and his award-winning, commercialized inventions that have led to semiconductor yield improvements and telehealth diagnoses of blinding diseases.

The June talk will be held on June 6 (instead of June 13) to avoid a scheduling conflict, as approved by the board. The talk will be by Tony Mezzacappa, UTK Dept of Physics and Astronomy, covering gravitational waves from core collapse supernovae. (Bob Compton)

On August 8, Bruce Moyer, ORNL Chemical Sciences Division, will speak on “Why ORNL Remains a Powerhouse in Separations Science and Technology.” (Carolyn)

July remains open. Fred Peretz will continue to work with Rob Peacher on a talk covering radioactive material processing programs and infrastructure at ORNL. Syd Ball will contact Kirk Sorensen of Flibe Energy for a possible talk on thorium-fueled salt reactors; Sorensen is currently in Amsterdam and may not be available for an in-person talk in July. Fred also noted that Steve Arndt, a potential speaker on the NRC, advanced reactors, and the history of the American Nuclear Society, does not live in Oak Ridge despite being an ORNL employee.

Jeremy Busby has been mentioned as a possible speaker, but we have not been able to contact him. Peacher and Busby might cover similar territory.

A talk by the CEO of Kairos Power is being considered; the company is planning the Hermes demonstration reactor at the ETRF site. Kairos considers its technical details proprietary, and there are some concerns as to whether they would be able to provide an interesting talk.

Carolyn Krause mentioned the possibility of a talk by Phil Snyder, a theoretical and computational physicist, who was recently appointed interim director of ORNL’s Fusion Energy Division.

Jan Berry was suggested as a speaker by Carolyn Krause, covering nuclear power as a solution for climate change as an MIT-DOE initiative. Berry is a state-level volunteer for Citizens’ Climate Lobby and a certified trainer for the EnROADS program.

Other suggested speakers have been identified in earlier minutes.

Media reports

Newspapers – Carolyn Krause

On April 20, a front-page article on Joan Bienvenue’s FORNL talk on the UT-Oak Ridge Innovation Institute appeared in The Oak Ridger. On April 21, a front-page article on David McCollum’s FORNL talk on net-zero decarbonization game changers to slow climate warming appeared in The Oak Ridger. A news release promoting Ken Tobin’s talk to FORNL on Tuesday, May 9, appeared on page 2 of the Monday, May 8 issue of The Oak Ridger. All three of the articles also appeared on The Oak Ridger website.

Carolyn updated the FORNL website with summaries of and links to the news releases on the ORNL website since April 10.

Facebook – Ellen Smith

No report.



Hybrid Meeting – Herb Krause

Herb Krause will set up and host the talk and address in-house questions at the end of the talk. Herb will also introduce the speaker. David Fields will serve as co-host and will address questions posted on Zoom. There is no non-routine outreach message this month; Herb will mention the ongoing need for volunteers at AMSE (both visitor's desk and tour bus) and MAPR. David Mullins will be present to renew memberships and collect dues.

Typical attendance for the hybrid meetings is about 45 people, with no more than a third attending in person.

Webmaster – Jim Rome

Routine website updates continue. Jim might be willing to talk about computer attacks and security measures.

AMSE and Bus Tours –Al Ekkebus

The 2023 DOE Bus Tour kicked off the season this year on Thursday, April 13. Bus tours are held on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays. The tour departs American Museum of Science and Energy and make stops at K-25, the ORNL Visitor Center where we use the wall mural inside to discuss the lab's history, and the Y-12 New Hope Center. AMSE held a dry run tour for bus tour volunteers on April 10, and has made it possible for volunteers to shadow additional tours to become more comfortable with the new material. This year, 17 guides have been trained as either lead or guide assistants. We have had 11 public bus tours to date, with a total guest count of just over 300 guests.

Tony Schnadelbach, AMSE's director of Volunteers and Public Programs, reports that tours are beginning to book up over the next few months and are expecting a great summer tour season. Feedback from guests and the surveys have been very positive! At the beginning of the tours, an occasional comment was received from guests being disappointed that they couldn't see the graphite reactor. However, after updating the tour description online and the creation of the graphite reactor video now shown at K-25, those disappointed comments are few and far between.

New Member and Public Outreach –Fred Peretz, Syd Ball, Bob Compton, and Herb Krause

No report, other than the continuing need for volunteers at AMSE and MAPR.

Community Lectures – Kent Williams, and Bob Compton

Kent Williams was unable to attend and no significant discussion on community lectures took place.

History Room – Al Ekkebus

Manhattan Project – Fred Peretz

PDH Certificates – David Fields

Visitor Badges – Syd Ball

No significant reports were given on these topics.

Old Business

No action was taken on defining records. Fred Peretz will present a proposal at a future board meeting.



New Business

With the monthly lecture meeting moved up a week, the question was asked should the June board meeting also be moved one week earlier in June. A vote was taken, and keeping the board meeting on June 12 was agreed to.

No other new business was identified.

Closing

The next board meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on June 12, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Peretz
Secretary, Friends of ORNL