



## Minutes for the April 10, 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; Ellen Smith, Vice President; Fred Peretz, Secretary; David Mullins, Treasurer.

Board Members Present: Ray Garrett, Carolyn Krause, and Steve Overbury.

Adjunct members in attendance: Bob Compton, Jim Rome, and Kent Williams.

### *Announcements – Herb Krause*

Our \$3000 UT-Battelle grant request was funded. We were told to allow 3-5 weeks for the mailed check.

Katy Brown was formally named Manager of Community Engagement and Protocol. She mentioned a plan to fill vacant positions in several weeks that may allow her more engagement with us.

Herb sent an updated file on the lecture history listing to board members.

### *Lab Liaison – Katy Brown*

Katy provided a response to Syd Ball's question on employment opportunities.

### *Secretary – Fred Peretz*

Minutes for the March 13 board meeting were circulated to the board with the agenda. They were approved and will be posted on the FORNL website.

### *Treasurer – David Mullins*

The significant item on the treasurer's report is the \$792 catering fee for the community lecture. The checking account balance is still adequate for anticipated needs. Small amounts of income this month were from membership, Benevity, and interest. Income exceeds expenses this year by \$88.

The Interstellar Research Group responded to the item that has been in our mailbox since last fall, providing a forwarding address. They also said they would change the mailing address on their website. The check from ORNL has not yet arrived.

### *Membership – David Mullins*

We added one new annual member last month. We now have 39 annual members compared to 21 at this time last year. We have 54 lifetime members, compared to 42 last year.

### *Luncheon Lectures - Ellen Smith, Carolyn Krause, Bob Compton*

The March 14 luncheon lecture was by Joan M. Bienvenue, UT- Oak Ridge Innovation Institute Executive Director and Vice Provost, titled "UT-ORII: Aligning ORNL & UT's Resources to Prepare Future STEM Talent."



Upcoming meetings:

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

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.

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

June and July remain open. Syd Ball will contact Kirk Sorensen of Flibe Energy for a possible talk on thorium-fueled salt reactors in July. Fred mentioned Rob Peacher and Steve Arndt as possible speakers; Arndt is to speak at the local American Nuclear Society section tonight and we can get some insight into his possible interest. 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 as 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. Bob Compton has been considering a talk by Anthony Mezzacappa of the UT Physics Department, on topics such as gravitational waves from core collapse supernovae. Tony has been booked on the second Tuesday of each month through May in 2023 but may become available in the future.

Other suggested speakers have been identified in earlier minutes.

#### *Media reports*

##### *Newspapers – Carolyn Krause*

An article on Gina Tourassi's talk on artificial intelligence research at ORNL appeared on the front page of the March 23, 2023, edition of *The Oak Ridger*.

An article on Hap McSween's Dick Smyser Community Lecture on asteroid discoveries using NASA's Dawn spacecraft appeared on the front page of the April 5, 2023, edition of *The Oak Ridger*.

A news release promoting the April 10 talk by David McCollum on decarbonization and Net Zero World efforts to slow climate change appeared today on page 8 of *The Oak Ridger* and on its website as the fourth headline, along with an Earth Day video featuring kids picking up recyclable trash.

Carolyn updated the FORNL website with the latest ORNL science news releases.

##### *Facebook – Ellen Smith*

An article (likely on artificial intelligence) by Carolyn Krause was a top read on our Facebook page, with 245 people following. Jim Rome mentioned Next Door as a potential tool for informing neighbors of our talks.



*Hybrid Meeting – Herb Krause*

Arrangements for the April 11 hybrid meeting are complete. Steve Overbury will assist and serve as co-host. Ellen Smith will introduce the speaker. Fred Peretz will do an outreach minute remotely, covering the upcoming start of the AMSE/DOE bus tours. David Mullins will staff the desk at the ETEC room.

*Webmaster – Jim Rome*

The website software update has been completed.

*AMSE and Bus Tours – Janet Swift and Al Ekkebus*

The AMSE/DOE bus tours will start on Thursday, April 13, and run on Monday, Thursday, and Friday. The price for each attendee is \$15 and includes admission to both AMSE and the K-25 History Center. The tours begin and end at AMSE and include stops at K-25 History Center, the wall mural adjacent to the ORNL Visitor Center, and the Y-12 History Center at the New Hope Center. Check-in for the tour begins at 8:30, and the bus returns by 12:30.

A volunteer training session was held on Monday, April 10. The session was based on a bus ride with each stop to allow everyone to learn the new route and review the guide. For the first couple of weeks of the tour, AMSE staff will lead the tours. A few seats will be open for volunteers to ride and watch the new tour, obtaining more experience and training by shadowing staff. The Graphite Reactor at ORNL is not available as a tour site this year because of the ongoing demolition of research reactors around it.

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

Outreach this month focused on the upcoming start of the bus tours.

*Community Lectures – Kent Williams, and Bob Compton*

The recent community lecture was judged a success, with live attendance estimated to be about 70 or 80 people. The question-and-answer session following the talk may have been allowed to run too long, and the desire by ORION to hold regular monthly meeting activities after the talk was not known in advance. The amount of food ordered for the reception was excessive; about half the order might have sufficed.

Publicity opportunities were discussed; the lecture announcement did not make the print edition of *The Oak Ridger* but did appear on its website. There was no significant publicity targeting the broader area except for our news release, which was sent to the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* and other smaller area newspapers. A discussion on obtaining publicity beyond Oak Ridge city venues took place. One suggestion for future community lectures was to put an ad in the *Knoxville News-Sentinel*.

Kent Williams is continuing to investigate the availability of Siegfried Hecker as a future speaker; it was noted that he spoke at an ORNL Wigner Lecture in April 2015. Should ORNL hire a new permanent laboratory director, that person might also be asked to speak at a community lecture.

*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*

No new business was identified.

*Closing*

The next board meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on May 8, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fred Peretz  
Secretary, Friends of ORNL