



Minutes for the June 10, 2024, FORNL Board Meeting

Call to Order and Amendments to the Agenda – Ellen Smith

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

Attendees:

Officers present: Ellen Smith, President; Steve Overbury, Vice President; Fred Peretz, Secretary; and David Mullins, Treasurer.

Board Members Present: Syd Ball, Kathy Gant, Carolyn Krause, and Alan Lowe.

Adjunct members in attendance: Herb Krause and Kent Williams.

Minutes of February Meetings – Fred Peretz

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

Treasurer's and Membership Report – David Mullins

The May reports were distributed. Lunches are nearly balanced, with a \$50 deficit. Other expenses such as the Zoom subscription will appear in the coming months. Costs for the June community lecture will also be incurred. We still show a \$400 surplus for the year. The ORNL grant application needs to be prepared for submission during July.

Several new annual memberships arrived over the past month. As of the end of May, membership is 39 annual and 55 life members.

ORNL Liaison's Report – Annette Brun and Katy Brown

The ORNL liaison was not present at the meeting. Earlier communication covered the July 1 Wigner lecture by Marsha McNutt. It was thought that there was a process in place to submit forms electronically for a single-event visitor badge, but the form does not appear to be accessible outside the ORNL internal network. We are hoping this issue will be resolved before the lecture, but we will not be able to announce the process at tomorrow's lunch lecture.

We were asked to suggest possible dates and venues for a State of the Lab talk; the Laboratory Director is willing to give the talk. This is discussed later in the minutes.

Ellen identified a link to current ORNL org charts as a useful reference for FORNL; the link is <https://www.ornl.gov/content/organization>.

Monthly Lectures – Ellen Smith, Carolyn Krause, other board members

The May lecture was by Tony Mezzacappa, UTK Physics Department and Joint Institute for Computational Sciences at ORNL, speaking on gravitational waves from core collapse supernovae.

The June 11 lecture will be by Tomonori Saito, speaking on converting plastic waste into useful polymers, with a talk titled "Toward Closed-loop Circularity of Plastics by Chemical Upcycling." Steve Overbury will introduce the speaker.



Talks scheduled for upcoming meetings include:

- July 9 – Amy Elliot, addressing topics on additive manufacturing, robotics, and outreach.
- August 13 – Lee Riedinger, on the release of his new book on the UTK/ORNL partnership.
- September 10 – Zili Wu, ORNL Chemical Science Division and the Center for Nanophase Material Sciences at ORNL, addressing topics on surface chemistry and catalysis.
- October 8 – Ivan Selin, speaking on the history and future of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- November slot remains open; there is no talk in December.

Additional future topics being considered are promethium chemistry, electron microscopy, new climatological modeling, and issues with the electric power grid. Work between AMSE and the Oak Ridge city school system might also be a topic. Syd Ball observed that Congressman Chuck Fleishmann, representing the Third Congressional District (including Oak Ridge) serves as chair of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee as well as co-chair of the Nuclear Security Working Group and might be an interesting speaker about advanced reactors policy.

Getting titles to the talks earlier would enhance the use of the Oak Ridge Community Calendar for promotion.

The current list of potential speakers is being maintained as a Google online spreadsheet used for recruiting and scheduling prospective speakers. The worksheet can be viewed and edited by anyone, accessed via the link https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ETI6DIem5_jf_0rNfZUfHf5PycV11b2vIOpNT6KFjH0/.

Community Lectures – Kent Williams

Arrangements are nearly complete for the Thursday, June 27 Community Lecture "Drones: Making Sense of the World Below," by Peter Fuhr and colleagues. The lecture will be at 7:00 p.m. in the City Room (room A-111) of the Oak Ridge Roane State Community College campus. Refreshments will be available starting at 6:15 pm. Partly because more drinks are needed, the cost increased to \$700. Kent Williams needs a copy of the Tennessee sales tax exemption letter to forward to the caterer. We also need to establish a connection with the Roane State audio-visual department so we can respond to issues that arise during the talk.

The ORNL liaison indicated that Dr. Stephen Streiffer, ORNL Laboratory Director, is open to giving a State of the Laboratory address this fall. We have been asked to suggest possible dates and venues for the talk. After some discussion, it was agreed that the New Hope Center auditorium is a good choice for the number of people that might attend a State of the Lab talk. Thursday evenings seemed to be a good time selection, possibly October 17 or 24 (avoiding Halloween and well ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday). Alan Lowe agreed to discuss this venue and dates with ORNL.

Another possible future Community Lecture might be from Chuck Fleishmann, as noted in the lunch lecture discussion.

Outreach:

Brochure, Poster, and Promotional Materials – Syd Ball, Fred Peretz

No input has been received on a one-page information sheet that might be added to ORNL retirees' packets, and nothing was presented at the meeting. Carolyn Krause offered to assist with generation of an information sheet. (After the meeting Fred Peretz initiated a draft for further review.)

Member Interaction

The board agreed that Steve Overbury could purchase 12 cups of the proposed design, to be available for the July speaker.



STEM Education

Schools are now out for the summer. Solicitations for support for the Tennessee Science Bowl and the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair are likely to come in early fall. Their websites may be monitored for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities and Needs

Manhattan Project National Historical Park – Fred Peretz

Fred noted that Matthew Klein has been named to a permanent position as the second ranger at MAPR. Matt has had numerous temporary positions with the National Park Service, including filling a communications role with MAPR. He joins Ian Wilder at the Oak Ridge unit, operating out of the Oak Ridge Children's Museum building.

AMSE and Public Tours – Alan Lowe

The public bus tours are going well; the new stop at the Frontier supercomputer is proving to be popular. There is talk of MAPR developing an historical tour to complement the current bus tour.

Alan noted that the standard weekly four-hour shift for AMSE volunteers need not be an impediment to signing up; volunteer opportunities can be arranged for other frequency and duration of shifts.

Media reports:

Newspapers – Carolyn Krause

Page 3 of the June 10 edition of The Oak Ridger has an article on tomorrow's talk, "ORNL Inventor of The Year to Speak on Cutting Plastic Pollution on Tuesday at Resource Center." The front page of the same edition includes a story on a recent AMSE talk by Lynne Parker, "Why You Should Become AI Literate – Expert on Artificial Intelligence Offers Picture of Changes to Come In Economy, Job Market."

An article on Tony Mezzacapa's recent talk is being updated and will be submitted to The Oak Ridger this week. An article on the upcoming Community Lecture will be submitted for publication the Friday before the lecture.

Website – Jim Rome

No report.

Facebook – Ellen Smith

Ellen updated the FORNL Facebook profile picture.

Old Business:

Food for monthly luncheon meetings – Ellen Smith and others

Offering food for tomorrow's lecture will continue, with the amount used the previous month appearing to be adequate. The budget and donations collected generally match.



Sponsorship

There was no update on the issue of sponsorship for FORNL activities (beyond the ORNL support provided for community lectures). AMSE sponsorship of specific activities remains an option.

New Business

No new business was raised.

Closing

The next board meeting will be held via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, July 8, 2024. The same Zoom link should continue until September.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Peretz
Secretary, Friends of ORNL