

BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 04/12/2022

Minutes recorded by L. Miller

Contact Information:

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association BREA

BNL Bldg. 400A

BERA Recreation/ Attention BREA Meeting

Upton, NY 11973

Present: A. Moodenbaugh, C. Conrad, D. Cox, L. Fishbone, A. Ghosh, V. Ghosh, M. Israel, L. Kouchinsky, J. Lemley, B. Lin, L. Miller, M. Rowe, D. Sievers, E. Sperry, B. Siskind, G. Williams

Officers 2022-2024: President: Arnold Moodenbaugh, Vice President: Vinita Ghosh, Secretary: Laura Miller, Treasurer: Les Fishbone, Membership Chair: Beth Lin, Newsletter Editor: Mona Rowe

1. **Call to Order. Arnie Moodenbaugh**
Meeting called to order at 1:01 pm
2. **Minutes of March meeting. Laura Miller**
Change Beth Lin's title: replaced "Membership Secretary" with "Membership Chair."
Remove from CAC section: CAC will probably remain on hiatus
Motion to approve after changes by M. Israel and C. Conrad.
3. **Membership Report. Beth Yu Lin.**
Current – 267 paid. Email: 242. Since last meeting, 3 members paid their dues.
Motion to approve by C. Conrad, seconded by Mark.
Action: Laura will contact Renee Warner and ask her to change Beth's title to Membership Chair.
Action: Mona will look into where on the membership form 'the first year free' is stated.
4. **CAC Meeting Report. Mark Israel.**
March meeting was on the 10th, next is April 14th. Jason Remien gave update on Bldg. 650 waste site. The work has been approved and accepted by Energy Solutions Corp. Introduced Lucia Gambia who represents Army Corp of Engineers. HFBR site dismantling, 705 site: the final closeout report has been drafted, reviewed and comments received. They are waiting for final approval from the EPA. The project team hopes to have a final closeout report in the next few weeks and will make arrangements for the final report available to the CAC, probably as a link.
Doug Paquette spoke about groundwater testing and the installation of groundwater treatment systems for the groundwater protection program and gave a PFAS and PFOA update. One of the issues the Lab will have will be with collecting soils at the former firehouse. The former NSLS-I building was constructed over part of the old training area, so parts of the training area may not be accessible for sampling. The next step: a remediation work plan.
Very good presentation by Jim Misewich on NY's clean energy future and BNL's role. Overall goal is reduction of carbon and CO₂ greenhouse gases over time in the energy system. It requires 3 primary areas: massive scale storage of energy, the fine-tuning

and expansion of the electric grid, and chemical and biological conversions, all with safety and efficiency in mind and using NSLS-II and CFN. Developing a modeling center for

April meeting – discussion of change in top leadership? The only mention in March meeting was that it will be phased. First person to leave will be deputy director (Tribble), then the director (Gibbs) and last will be Anderson. Anderson and Tribble have already sold their homes. Mark will update us if he hears anything more. BSA's top position is usually traded off every two years. Right now, it's Gibbs. Energy discussion: any discussion about Indian Point -no.

5. Newsletter plans. Mona Rowe

There will be a piece on scams, including personal examples. Mona will use Mark as a basis on what's available on-line, and what the Lab is doing for Earth Day, and Steve Schwartz is giving a talk, some on Zoom and some in person. She will do a small summary of our digital work.

The following issue: report from Jonathon Corbin from Queen's College and another person (Victor Casella's daughter?) to be an onsite liaison who will do zoom meetings like this.

Action: Arnie will try to tune into Steve's talk and take a photo, so she can insert it into Arnie's President's message.

Action: Mona will work with Arnie on creating an appreciation letter for Jennifer in HR. Jennifer works tirelessly on behalf of retirees.

6. Treasurer's Report. Les Fishbone.

Les presented a detailed Treasurer's Report as a screen share within Zoom. The grand total for the checking and savings accounts and the three certificates of deposit (CD) is \$26,365.30.

Mark motioned to accept Treasurer's Report, Gwyn Williams seconded, passed unanimously.

7. Current donation status.

Les Fishbone generated checks of \$500 each to UNICEF USA and Doctors Without Borders (MSF). These were mailed in mid-March with BREA cover letters.

8. Discuss planning for future charitable donations.

Based on current assets and net annual income, Les Fishbone has estimated that providing donations of about \$1000 per year would be sustainable for 34 years. A possible larger one-time commitment could be made toward the Tesla Museum and/or a possible science education center at BNL's Discovery Park. There are potential charitable causes that should be considered, taking into account that any should be a link to the BNL community.

There can be obstacles to making contributions that involve BNL operations.

9. Consider changes to dues requirements.

Lifetime memberships reduce work for the membership chairperson. One possibility would be to automatically convert to lifetime after 10 annual membership renewals or two five-year memberships. Possibly adjust the dues levels to maintain BREA income. Decision: no change at this time.

10. Speakers for BREA Zoom meetings.

Two potential speakers have agreed, in principle, to give presentations. We will notify members with speaker and topic when schedules are confirmed.

Action: Les has two names for possible speakers that he will pass along to Arnie.

11. Annual Luncheon.

Any planning for a BREA luncheon (or any other in-person event) would depend on BNL COVID-19 policies. Should we begin some pre-planning to decide on the scope of a lunch event?

Planning depends on BNL COVID-19 policy. Arnie will check with them about this, about opening the Lab and about allowing retirees. The first priority is guests.

If BERA begins holding off-site trips, can we have luncheon if held off-site?

Discussion postponed until later this summer.

Action: Arnie will contact Chris about this.

12. Worker Health Protection Program.

The WHPP office at Queens College has begun sending out notices to employees and/or retirees. In some cases, a cover letter Arnie wrote to include with retirees was included in some mailings to current employees. This has caused confusion among employees.

Don knew a coworker who retired and five years later developed pancreatic cancer and died quickly. Don had given her the WHPP contact information and she had reached out to them.

Arnie has a request in for a discussion about this. He suggests coordinating it with Mona's WHPP July-August newsletter discussion. She will include her list of all the cancers, etc. that may get people compensation under this program.

13. New Business

Les: he has a collection of technical books that he's had for years. Any creative ways to dispose of them? Laura will review recent websites and send Les anything she finds.

Motion to adjourn by Cheryl, Don seconded. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Next meeting will be May 10 at 1:00 via zoom.