



HBF Board of Trustees Spring 2025 Meeting
Wednesday, April 9th at 3:00 PM via Zoom

In attendance: Karen Patterson, Lindy Harrison, Jonnie Swann, David Martin, John Mitchener, Gayle Watkins, Leslie Manning, Lori Heys, Lisa Armstrong, Tom Holmes, Linda Barlow, Charley Tarver, Lisa Daily, Jamie Creola, Vernon Skiles, Bill Bush, Julie Thomson, Keller Torrey, Ruthie Edwards, Marissa Nieddu, and Alex Smith

Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m. by President John Mitchener.

A motion was made by John to approve previous meeting's minutes. Seconded by Tom Holmes and David Martin. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Tom Holmes

Holmes noted that HBF is in good shape and did very well in 2024 - Soiree \$178K raised - NET \$121K and Half Shell ~\$35K raised with minimal expenditures due to Helene and the event's cancellation. And that individual contributions came in well above our \$220K projection.

Holmes reviewed the 2024 EOY financials (Budget and Investment Accounts) and discussed 2025 Budget and Investments YTD (first 2 ½ months). Jamie elaborated on 2025 budget and timing issues that affect the 1st quarter expenditures (research assistants, mileage reimbursement, invoices from end of 2024 showing on 2025).

Below is the cumulative return for 2024. The investment objective is moderate growth and currently the entire portfolio is weighted about 79% stocks, 21% bonds & cash.

Account	Value 1/1/24	Value 12/31/24	Gain Of	Inception Date	Value
Operations	\$2,028,268	\$2,325,180	14.63%	02/04/2019	\$1,610,119
N Campus	\$537,693	\$591,565	10%	11/04/2020	\$500,000
Sanger Sch.	\$108,135	\$127,609	18%	8/11/2023	\$102,000
TOTAL	\$2,674,096	\$3,044,354	13.84%		

NOTE - not including a distribution of 25K for New Office Maintenance.

Operations: a total of \$564,281 has been drawn since inception.



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Development Report - Keller Torrey

Torrey noted that the Development Committee had not met since the last Board mtg. however, meetings with the Soiree sub-committee have and a lot of work has been done on both the Patron Party and Summer Soiree (catering, rentals, etc)

2025 Events update:

- Soiree
 - Location - Lori and Ed Hey's property
 - Date - Monday, July 28th
- Patron Party
 - Location - Kathy & Bestor Ward's house
 - Date - Wednesday, June 18th
- Highlands on the Half-Shell
 - Location - HBS
 - Date - Sunday, October 5th

Buildings and Grounds Report - Charley Tarver

Tarver stated that the B&G committee had not met since the last Board meeting but that a lot of work had been done on the new office. Charley, Linda and Jamie have been busy addressing water and plumbing, HVAC, and bridge/structural aspects of the new property - meeting with contractors and technicians. Work on the water filtration system, HVAC and bridge/deck will be taking place this spring. He thanked Linda for spearheading all the work Tarver also mentioned that the lot beside the new office had been purchased and was now owned by HBF. Reminder - Amy Patterson has planned to gift HBF \$200K to purchase the lot adjacent to the new office. Since the disbursement would take 2 years to happen, HBF fronted the money and purchased the property while the owners were still agreeable. Amy will give a gift over the next two years.

Jamie chimed in and thanked Charley for all of his work. Charley, Marissa and Jamie have been busy ordering and assembling furniture (office, tables, chairs) for the new office. Slow but steady progress.

Strategic Planning Report - Gayle Watkins



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Watkins stated that the committee has met numerous times to discuss process and participation and began the content development and design of several surveys that will be going out shortly - Board Member and Community. It has been an extensive, iterative process that will give us crucial information for moving forward.

Watkins also stated that the committee has discussed hiring a consultant to steward the process and help with data collection, facilitation of focus groups and interviews, as well as data analysis and reporting. The committee is working on an RFP to be reviewed by Executive and Finance Committees.

Lastly, that the timeline for the Strategic Plan had shifted. A lot of work will happen over the summer when most of our constituents are in town. A draft will be shared with the Board at the October Board meeting with the final version shared at the December meeting.

Education and Outreach, Communications Report - Marissa Nieddu, Julie Thomson and Jamie Creola

Thomson shared that she had been busy doing outreach programs and hosting small group tours/engagements/workshops at the Nature Center (through a PPT). Also, that the Nature Center had piloted being open once-a-month for programming and self-discovery during January - March and that it was very successful. Also, that we were now in Spring hours (Th-Sat, 10 - 4). She mentioned that we had hired our 4 summer naturalists and were excited to have all of them returning (former Naturalists and IE students).

Nieddu gave updates on the 2024 Annual Report (which will go out virtually next week), 2025 Program Brochure with an amazing Zahner Lectures series, Nature Night, and daily programs. She also mentioned that the bi-annual Carpenter lecture had been finalized and we're very excited. See below and links:

- Zoe Schlanger - Sept 10th <https://authorsunbound.com/zoe-schlanger/>

Nieddu also mentioned the very successful Summer Camp registration, showed updates to the webpages, and talked about the Spring Campaign.

Creola gave a staffing update - Nieddu joined us in January as the new Marketing and Communications Specialist. We have hired four Summer Naturalists - one returning from last year and three are students from the IE program. We have also hired a

second Education Specialist, Madeleine Wikstrom, who will be starting in late April. She and Julie will jointly run the Nature Center, take care of our Animal Ambassadors, run programs throughout the year and provide Outreach opportunities during the school year. The rehiring of



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this position will also allow us to focus on adult and youth volunteering and programming. She also thanked both Julie and Marissa for jobs well-done!!

Nomination Report - Jamie Creola

Creola reminded everyone that it was time once again for Nominating new Board Members as several existing Trustees will be rolling off. She asked everyone to think of new recruits and to let her and the committee know of any suggestions.

Term 1 ending in 2025: Tom Holmes, Drew Lanham, Martha Stibbs, Jonnie Swann

Term 2 ending in 2025: Cathy Jones, Melanie Mauldin, Frances Oakley, Vernon Skiles

Over the next month or so, the Nominating Committee will meet to review nominees and propose a slate of trustees and officers. **Deadline for submitting nominations is May 19.**

The Nominating Committee will send approved nominees to the Executive Committee for review by May 30. The slate will be sent to the full board by June 11 and voted on at the annual membership meeting on June 25.

The following criteria should be considered when making HBF Trustee nominations:

1. The nominee is supportive of the HBF mission.
2. The nominee is willing to share his/her volunteer time, talents, energy, and resources with HBF.
3. The nominee will demonstrate a fiduciary responsibility to HBF.
4. The nominee will help fill HBF's need for a well-rounded board with balanced talents and professional experience.

Presidents Note - John Mitchener

Mitchener took a moment to recognize all the hard work and amazing programming/events that had taken place over the past year and Creola's role as a leader.

Meeting adjourned: 4:45 PM