

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE
METROPOLITAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK AND MUSEUM DISTRICT**

St. Louis, Missouri
August 5, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District was held via Zoom at 7733 Forsyth Boulevard, Suite 550, on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. The primary purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the 2020 budgets and 2019 financial statements presented by the Missouri History Museum Subdistrict and the Missouri Historical Society (the "Museum").

Robert Eggmann, Chair of the Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District ("District"), called the meeting to order. Upon roll call, the following Board Members were present:

Robert Eggmann	Thomas J. Campbell
Darnetta Clinkscale	Thomas C. Mummert
Pat Coleman	Jill Nowak

Michelle Harris joined the meeting after roll call. Christine Chadwick was absent. Other persons attending the meeting included Michael A. Chivell from Armstrong Teasdale LLP, the District's legal counsel and District employees: J. Patrick Dougherty and Matthew Pollock.

Public Comments: The Chair asked for public comments from those in attendance. No comments resulted.

Missouri History Museum Subdistrict and Missouri Historical Society Budget Presentation: The Chair welcomed the Missouri History Museum Subdistrict Commissioners, Missouri Historical Society Trustees, the Management Team, and other guests.

Robert M. Cox, Jr., Chair of Missouri Historical Society Board of Trustees, welcomed the Board. Mr. Cox thanked the Board for providing an opportunity to meet safely via Zoom. He acknowledged that 2020 has been a challenging year for the Museum but it is stronger for that reason. Mr. Cox highlighted reports that many museums will not survive the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that the taxpayer support, through the District, will allow the Museum to survive. Mr. Cox commented that the District support represents over 50% of the Museum's revenue. He concluded by once again thanking the District for its strong financial support.

Judy M. Abrams, Chair of Missouri History Museum Subdistrict, echoed Mr. Cox's thanks for the opportunity to meet with the Board. Ms. Abrams commented that she is pleased with the Museum's response to the challenges it currently faces. She provided a brief review of the modifications and cost cutting measures taken by the Museum because of the COVID-19 pandemic. She also emphasized the importance of the Museum continuing to "provide hope through history" as it meets the needs of the community while managing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and social unrest. Ms. Abrams complimented the leadership of Dr. Frances Levine and the Museum staff during these difficult times. She also mentioned that the Museum received national attention when Dr. Levine was invited to testify to the Senate Appropriations Staff Committee regarding the importance of museums and the vital work they conduct during the pandemic.

Dr. Frances Levine, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Missouri Historical Society, presented information regarding the Museum's efforts to engage the community during the pandemic, the various

exhibits that have been presented during 2019 and 2020, attendance, staff and volunteer demographics, a preview of the exhibitions planned for the remainder of 2020 and 2021, and the Museum's strategic plans. Dr. Levine reiterated that although 2020 has been a challenging year, it has also been a great year for history. She acknowledged the importance of the Museum's responsibility to both display history and chronicle events that have transpired during these uncertain times.

Christina Renz, Chief Financial Officer of the Missouri Historical Society, presented an overview of the 2020 budget, the cost saving measures implemented by the Museum in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the status of the Museum's Endowment, and the CARES Act Funding received by the Museum. The Museum qualified for a \$1.99 million Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan. Ms. Renz stated that management completed a detailed analysis to ensure the loan was required to prevent staff furloughs. Ms. Renz stated that the Museum is in the process of completing the loan forgiveness application; she is hopeful that most of loan will be forgiven. Ms. Renz also provided an overview of the \$197,269 National Endowment for the Humanities CARES Act Grant that was awarded to the Museum. The grant's purpose was to provide support for the Museum's digital platform. She concluded by stating that no taxpayer support will be used for expenses covered by the CARES Act Funding.

Dr. Levine ended the presentation with a Missouri Historical Society-created video entitled *St. Louis Strong*.

The Chair opened the meeting for questions and/or comments from the District Board Members. Discussions followed. The Chair thanked the presenters and commended Dr. Levine and entire Museum staff.

Approval of Minutes: The Chair called for the approval of the minutes from the July 21, 2020 regular Board meeting.

Ms. Nowak moved that the minutes be approved. Mr. Mummert seconded the motion. The Chair asked for discussion; Ms. Nowak suggested a reference to the Art Museum's amended budget be added to the minutes. The minutes, with the suggested revision, were approved with all members voting "Aye".

Review of the Budget Presentation: The Chair called for comments and discussion regarding the information presented by the Museum's management. The discussion included the following comments from Board Members:

- Board Members were impressed and commended the Museum for its ability to remain engaged with the community during these uncertain times.
- Board Members commended the management team for its efforts to keep staff and guests safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, Board Members were happy to hear that the team learned lessons along the way that will serve it well in the future.
- Board Members were pleased hear that management used the PPP Loan proceeds strictly for payroll-related expenses.
- Board Members also commended the organization for creating the position of Managing Director of Diversity, Inclusion, and Institutional Culture.
- One Board Member commented that the presentation did not address a recently reported data breach impacting the Missouri Historical Society's donor information. The Member stated that the

District-sponsored cyber security assessment might have mitigated the impact of the breach since, according to a newspaper article, more delicate donor information was not exposed.

Executive Director's Report: There was no Executive Director's Report.

Communications Committee Report: Ms. Harris had nothing to report.

Finance/Audit Committee Report: Mr. Mummert had nothing to report.

Report of Legal Counsel: Mr. Chivell had nothing to report.

Old Business: There was no Old Business Report.

New Business: There was no New Business Report.

There being no further business of the Board, Ms. Harris moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mummert seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Harris
Secretary