

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

St. Louis, Missouri  
July 21, 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 Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. The primary purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the 2020 budget and 2019 financial statements presented by the St. Louis Art Museum Subdistrict (the "Museum").

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

Christine A. Chadwick	Thomas J. Campbell
Darnetta Clinkscale	Pat Coleman
Michelle Harris	Thomas C. Mummert
Jill Nowak	

Robert Eggmann was absent from the meeting.

Other persons attending the meeting included Steve Mermelstein, Director at RSM US LLP and District employees: J. Patrick Dougherty and Matthew Pollock.

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

Art Museum Budget Presentation: The Vice Chair welcomed the Art Museum Commissioners, Trustees, Friends Board members and Staff.

Charles Lowenhaupt, President of the Board of Commissioners at the Saint Louis Art Museum, welcomed the Board. Mr. Lowenhaupt thanked the District for providing the virtual platform for the annual budget presentation. He expressed his appreciation for the care and wisdom of those that created and voted for the District's existence. He noted that during the recent uncertain times, the District has allowed the Museum to survive and maybe even prosper, while other American Museums have not. Mr. Lowenhaupt continued by saying the Museum exists to serve a community and the Museum is integral to the community and the community is fundamental to the Museum's presence. He further expressed the Museum's commitment to the community in a post pandemic and era of social unrest. He noted the Museum's goal for every community member to feel engaged, welcomed, and represented at the Art Museum. Mr. Lowenhaupt announced the Museum Commissioners are conducting a study that will result in a report regarding inclusion, diversity, and meeting the needs of the community. Mr. Lowenhaupt concluded by saying the Subdistrict is grateful to the taxpayers for the generous support of the Museum through the District.

Carolyn Schmidt, Deputy Director and Controller, addressed the Board and presented an overview of the 2020 Operating Budget (as revised), the Museum's Endowment, and Capital Budget. Ms. Schmidt explained that the original 2020 Operating Budget was adopted earlier in the year but required revision due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. She highlighted that tax support received from the District represents 71% of the Museum's \$33 million total amended operating budget.



Brent Benjamin, Barbara B. Taylor Director, presented information about the Museum's strategic plan, attendance, and staff and volunteer demographics. Mr. Benjamin reminded the District that the Strategic Plan was adopted by the Museum's Board of Commissioners and focuses on commitments related to the Museum's art collection, visitor experience, community involvement, and institutional sustainability. Throughout Mr. Benjamin's presentation, he highlighted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and era of social unrest on the various commitments.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Vice Chair opened the meeting for any questions and/or comments from the District Board Members. Several Board Members asked questions and/or made comments. Discussions ensued. The Vice Chair thanked the presenters and commended them on the Museum's successful operation even during these uncertain times.

Approval of Minutes: The Vice Chair called for the approval of the minutes from the June 9, 2020 regular Board meeting.

Mr. Campbell moved that the minutes be approved. Ms. Chadwick seconded the motion. The Vice Chair asked for discussion; one wording revision was suggested. The minutes were approved with all members voting "Aye".

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

- Board Members commend management for a very thorough presentation.
- Board Members were impressed by the Museum's exceptionally high 2019 net promoter score which is a metric used as a core measurement of the customer experience.
- Board Members commend management for its innovative use of virtual programming during 2020. Members ask to be updated on the virtual programs offered by the Museum throughout 2020.
- Board Members were interested in Mr. Lowenhaupt's comments regarding what the Museum's Board of Commissioners are doing with respect to inclusion and diversity at the St. Louis Art Museum. Board Members asked that a copy of the Commission's report be forwarded to the ZMD office upon its completion. Members would like to be updated on the Commission's plans to develop a community advisory board to provide input on future Museum diversity and inclusion initiatives.
- Board Members were interested in Mr. Benjamin's announcement of a comprehensive evaluation of the Museum's Romare Bearden Fellowship, which will be shared with fellow museums seeking to initiate similar fellowships at an Arts Leaders' virtual meeting. Board Members asked that a copy of the presentation be forwarded to the ZMD office when it is available.

Executive Director's Report: Mr. Dougherty discussed the May and June 2020 internal financial reports.

Mr. Dougherty updated the District Board Members on the recruiting of the Office Manager. The job posting has been placed on Indeed and over 70 resumes have been received to date.

Communications Committee: Ms. Harris reminded the Board Members that the District would not complete a Report to the Community this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. She discussed the idea of preparing a brief list of highlights from the year and publishing them on the District website. A discussion ensued and next steps were tabled until October.

Finance/Audit Committee Report: Mr. Mummert had no report.

Report of Legal Counsel: Mr. Chivell was not in attendance and no report was given.

Old Business: Steve Mermelstein, Director at RSM US LLP provided a brief update of the RSM shared services and joint purchasing engagement. Since the COVID-19 shutdown in March 2020, the engagement was stopped and placed in a holding pattern. Since the institutions have reopened, RSM would like to resume the engagement. Currently, the engagement is three-fourths complete.

New Business: The Vice Chair offered her congratulations to District Board Member, Pat Coleman, for being named one of the St. Louis Business Journal's Most Influential Business Women, Class of 2020. Board Members and District Staff also expressed their congratulations.

The Vice Chair asked for a motion to go into Closed Session; pursuant to RSMo. Sections 610.021 (1), (2), (3), (12), (15) and (17) to discuss legal issues, real estate, personnel, negotiation of a contract, proprietary information and/or other confidential matters. Mr. Campbell moved to close the meeting. Ms. Chadwick seconded the motion. A roll call vote to approve the motion was taken. The motion passed with all members voting "Aye".

The closed session of the meeting adjourned, and the regular meeting was reopened to the public at 1:55 p.m. Minutes from the closed session of the meeting will be prepared by Mr. Pollock and filed at the office of Armstrong Teasdale LLP.

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

Respectfully submitted,

  
Michelle Harris  
Secretary