

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

St. Louis, Missouri
September 17, 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 Thursday, September 17, 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 Missouri Botanical Garden Subdistrict and the Missouri Botanical Garden (the "Garden").

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 E. Eggmann	Thomas J. Campbell
Christine A. Chadwick	Darnetta Clinkscale
Thomas C. Mummert	

Michelle Harris joined the meeting after roll call. 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 Botanical Garden Subdistrict and Missouri Botanical Garden Budget Presentation: The Chair welcomed the Missouri Botanical Garden Subdistrict Commissioners, Missouri Botanical Garden Trustees, the Garden's Management Team, and other guests.

David M. Hollo, Chair of the Missouri Botanical Garden Trustees, welcomed and thanked the District Board for allowing the Garden to participate in the meeting. Mr. Hollo highlighted the Garden's people centric and family focused approach to addressing the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. He complimented the Garden's leadership team for their efforts and was happy to report that the Garden did not layoff or furlough any staff.

Dr. Yemi Susan Akande-Bartsch, Chair of the Missouri Botanical Garden Subdistrict, also welcomed and thanked the District Board for allowing the Garden to participate in the meeting. Dr. Akande-Bartsch talked about the Garden's transparent and collaborative response to the Black Lives Matter movement. She introduced the Garden's initiative to hire a Director of Diversity and Inclusion.

Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson, President and Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, echoed the sentiments by Mr. Hollo and Dr. Akande-Bartsch. Dr. Wyse Jackson continued the presentation by emphasizing the Strategic Plan that guides the Garden in everything it does. Objectives of the Strategic Plan included Cultural Institution, Financial Planning and Continuity, Organizational Capability, and Plant Conservation. He then continued by sharing the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on the Garden. Dr. Wyse Jackson said the top priority of the Garden was to keep all the Garden's employees on staff, even during the Garden's three-month closure.

Dr. Wyse Jackson continued by presenting the Garden's 2019 Financials. He reported that the Garden's Balance Sheet remains strong with Total Net Assets nearing \$300 million. Dr. Wyse Jackson shared a graphic that provided a breakdown of the Garden's Operating Revenues for 2016 through 2020. Specifically, he noted the Garden's deep appreciation of taxpayer support through the District. He continued the financial aspect of the presentation by explaining the Garden's 2020 Budget and the financial impact of COVID-19. The Garden expects \$6 million less in revenue during 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This loss was offset by an unrestricted gift from a Trustee and a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan. The PPP Loan was used entirely for salaries and benefits to ensure no layoffs or salary reductions. Dr. Wyse Jackson reported that the Garden fully anticipated the PPP Loan will be forgiven. He continued presentation by acknowledging the Garden's Endowment robust performance.

Dr. Wyse Jackson continued the presentation by talking about the Garden's Capital Projects. He provided updates on the construction progress of the Oertli Family Hardy Plant Nursery and Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center.

Next, Dr. Wyse Jackson presented the Garden's initiatives regarding diversity and inclusion. He shared that the Garden believes that diversity is what gives the Garden its strength and is fundamental to its foundation. He further detailed the new Director of Diversity and Inclusion position. Additionally, he discussed the need to reexamine the Garden's history to acknowledge racist legacies surrounding Henry Shaw's work and the enslaved individuals owned by him.

Dr. Wyse Jackson continued by highlighting the Garden's 2019 and 2020 attendance. The Garden welcomed more than 1 million visitors in 2019. He further described the attendance challenges in 2020 caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and overviewed the many virtual offerings by the Garden.

Dr. Wyse Jackson spent a portion of the presentation to detail the Garden's reopening plan and the many new policies and procedures for staff and guests. He noted that the Garden collaborated with other District institutions with respect to its reopening plan. He acknowledged that this is just one way the Garden works with other District institutions and welcomes any opportunities that may result from the District sponsored Shared Services engagement. He also provided a preview of the events to come, including the popular Garden Glow.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Chair opened the meeting for questions and/or comments from the District Board Members. Discussions followed. The Chair thanked and complimented the Garden's management for their presentation.

Approval of Minutes: The Chair called for the approval of the minutes from the September 1, 2020 regular Board meeting.

Mr. Campbell moved that the minutes be approved. Ms. Chadwick seconded the motion. The Chair asked for discussion; no discussion ensued. The minutes were approved with all present members voting "Aye".

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

- Board Members complimented the Garden on its diversity efforts and the creation of a Director of Diversity and Inclusion position that will report to the President.
- Board Members praised the Garden's people centered and family focused COVID-19 pandemic response.

- Board Members were impressed with the Garden's strong balance sheet.
- Board Members were interested in the Garden's potential Strategic Plan update and would like to be informed of any developments related to a new Strategic Plan.
- Board Members appreciated the updates regarding the Garden's potential Horticultural Degree Program and would like to be kept up to date as the Garden explores alternatives.
- Board Members were excited to see the progress on the Garden's various capital projects and would like updates related to construction progress.

Executive Director's Report: Mr. Dougherty had nothing to report.

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

Audit Committee Report: Mr. Mummert provided an update regarding the issuance of an RFP for banking services. The RFP was revised to incorporate comments and suggestions from other Committee members. The RFP is now completed and ready to be published. Mr. Mummert complimented his fellow Committee members for their feedback and expertise.

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

Old Business: There was no Old Business.

New Business: There was no New Business.

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