

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

St. Louis, Missouri
June 8, 2021

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, June 8, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. The primary purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the 2021 budget and 2020 financial statements presented by the Saint Louis Zoological Park Subdistrict and the Saint Louis Zoo Association (the "Zoo").

Robert Eggmann, Chair of the Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District ("District"), called the meeting to order. He then introduced Adrienne Mack as the District's new Office Manager.

Upon roll call, the following Board Members were present:

Robert E. Eggmann	Thomas J. Campbell
Christine A. Chadwick	Pat Coleman
Thomas C. Mummert	

Michelle Harris and Jill Nowak joined the meeting after roll call and Darnetta Clinkscale was absent. Other persons attending the meeting included Michael A. Chivell from Armstrong Teasdale LLP, the District's legal counsel, Rick Gratza from Kerber Eck & Braeckel, LLP, the District's Auditor, and District employees: J. Patrick Dougherty, Matthew Pollock, and Adrienne Mack.

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

Saint Louis Zoological Park Subdistrict and Saint Louis Zoo Association Budget Presentation: The Chair welcomed the Saint Louis Zoological Park Subdistrict Commissioners, Saint Louis Zoo Association Trustees, the Management Team, and other guests.

Dr. Jeffrey P. Bonner welcomed and thanked the District Board for allowing the Zoo to participate in the meeting. He offered an overview of the Zoo's agenda and presenters.

Dr. Bonner continued the presentation by providing a review of the Zoo's Governance and Structure. His review included the ZMD Tax Commission, Zoological Park Subdistrict Commission, St. Louis Zoo Association, and the Zoo President/CEO. He followed up with introducing the Zoo Commission Leaders, 2021-22 Board Officers, and Zoo Strategic Operations. He concluded with the announcement of his retirement after 20 plus years of service and noted that his replacement should be selected by the end of the year.

Cassandra J. Brown Ray, Chief Financial Officer, presented a review of the 2020 financials. She indicated that the Zoo's Net Position increased by \$18.9 million during 2020. Ms. Brown Ray highlighted that the District's support represented 26.5% of the Zoo's 2020 Total Revenue and 34% of 2020 Operating Revenue. The District's support is the second largest source of Total Revenue and largest source of Operating Revenue for the Zoo. She presented data showing that 82% of the District's support was used to fund Salaries, 8% for Benefits, and 10% for Utilities. Ms. Brown Ray commented on the Zoo's Endowment and Investment status. She indicated that the impact of COVID-19 resulted in a 1.7 million visitor decrease but exceeded the projected attendance in 2020.

Ms. Brown Ray discussed how the 2021 Budget was conservative due to the pandemic environment. She indicated that the attendance budget was reduced by 33%. Projections set for 2021 were exceeded but still 32% behind 2019. A request from the Endowment was made due to the pandemic to offset an increase in expenses and the downturn in attendance. Items budgeted for in 2021 include: opening of new Emerson Dinoroarus, full year of activities and attractions, and education programs. Ms. Brown Ray continued by providing an overview of the Revenue, Expense, and Capital budgets. Operating Revenues trending slightly above projections due to a significant increase in Sales Tax Revenue as opposed to the 2020 budget. Salaries and benefits made up 55% of Operating Expenses. The Capital Budget was budgeted at \$6 million, a significant decrease. She concluded by highlighting an increase in membership renewals for 2021. Ms. Brown Ray paused for questions. Several District Board Members asked questions and discussions ensued.

Dustin Deschamp, VP Internal Relations & General Counsel, discussed employee and volunteer statistics. He provided information on employee diversity and programs for working parents, specifically working mothers.

Dr. Jo-Elle Mogerma, Saint Louis Zoo Wildcare Park Director, continued the presentation by reading the Zoo's Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion Vision Statement and the Saint Louis Zoo's Solidarity Statement. Dr. Mogerma introduced the Zoo's new DEAI Committee Structure. She continued by highlighting the Zoo's continued commitment to diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion throughout all aspects of the Zoo's operations. Dr. Mogerma continued by providing an overview of the participation of the Zoo employees in a 14-month program, the Catalyst Circle. Dr. Mogerma paused for questions. Several District Board Members asked questions and discussions ensued.

Michael Macek, Saint Louis Zoo Director, discussed the Zoo's strategic plan. He shared the strategic plan's theme based upon the Zoo's mission. Mr. Macek provided an overview of the nine strategic directions developed by the Zoo's staff and volunteer leadership that focus on animal welfare and dynamic exhibits, visitor experience, wildlife conservation, conservation education, planning, design & infrastructure, people, sustainable growth, communications, and technology services. Mr. Macek paused for questions. Several District Board Members asked questions and discussions ensued.

Dr. Mogerma continued the presentation by providing an overview of the plans for the Wildcare Park. The location is 15 miles from St. Louis near the Missouri-Mississippi Confluence. It is designed for people to engage and connect with animals and nature. Dr. Mogerma highlighted that the site is 425 acres in total and a little over one-third of the property will be designated to endangered Ungulates, animals with hooves. The rest of the property will consist of tours, nature play, trails, and education programs. Tentative add-on experiences include exclusive tours, an observation tower, glamping, and an aerial adventure course. Dr. Mogerma discussed the call-to-action of saving the American Red Wolf. Dr. Mogerma paused for questions. Several District Board Members asked questions and discussions ensued.

Mr. Macek concluded the presentation with the 2021 guest experiences including, the Emerson Dinoroarus, Primate Canopy Trails, and the reimagined family experience. Attendance was captured at 30% beyond what was targeted, and YTD Revenues are at 242% higher than projected.

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 Zoo's management for their presentation.

Approval of Minutes: The Chair called for the approval of the minutes from the March 30, 2021 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 Zoo's management. Board Member, Jill Nowak, left the meeting. The discussion included the following comments from Board Members:

- Board Members commended the Zoo for their resiliency during the COVID-19.
- Board Members were impressed by the Zoo's presentation and commended for the introduction of staff with pictures.
- Board Members interested in being kept up to date on the Zoo's Diversity and Inclusion action plan.
- Board Members applauded the Zoo's recently adopted Strategic Plan.
- Board Members would like an update on the upcoming Capital Campaign discussed in the presentation.
- Board Members would like updates on the search for the Zoo's new President and CEO.
- Board Members acknowledged that the presentation exceeded the one-hour recommendation, however concluded that during these unprecedented times the presentations may exceed the allotted time.
- Board Members discussed recognizing Dr. Bonner and Mr. Benjamin for their upcoming retirement.

Executive Director's Report: Mr. Dougherty presented the District's internal financial statements for March and April 2021.

Communications Committee Report: Ms. Harris discussed the status of the digital Report to the Community. She noted that the report is missing two photos which are expected to be taken soon.

Audit Committee Report: Mr. Mummert provided an update on the District's banking transition. He noted that the District is expected to transition on July 1, 2021, upon completion of Triad Bank's training with the District staff.

He then introduced Rick Gratza from Kerber Eck & Braeckel, LLP to report on the 2020 Financial Statements and Agreed-upon Procedures. Mr. Gratza reported that the results of the audit are consistent with prior years. Mr. Mummert asked if there were any questions and/or comments. Discussions ensued. Mr. Mummert made a motion to approve the Audit. The Chair asked for discussion; no discussion ensued. The 2020 Financial Statements and Agreed-upon Procedures reports were approved with all present members voting "Aye".

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee Report: Mr. Pollock explained that the committee is in the process of scheduling its next meeting, which is intended to be a working meeting among members of the committee.

Report of Legal Counsel: Mr. Chivell provided clarification about two house bills filed regarding more regional representation among the Convention Visitor's Commission and the Regional Arts Commission. He explained that this information could impact the ZMD and the Subdistricts because there will be more regional representation from the neighboring counties.

Old Business: There was no Old Business.

New Business: Mr. Dougherty discussed the potential distribution of the District's 2020 "excess administrative revenue" to the Subdistricts. The distribution factors and distribution amounts are displayed below:

	Distribution Factor	Resulting Distribution
Zoological Park Subdistrict	28.534434%	\$1,018,007.88
Art Museum Subdistrict	28.534434%	\$1,018,007.88
Science Center Subdistrict	14.310378%	\$510,543.77
Botanical Garden Subdistrict	14.310378%	\$510,543.77
Missouri History Museum Subdistrict	14.310376%	\$510,543.70

Ms. Chadwick called for a motion to approve the distribution of the District's 2020 "excess administrative revenue". Mr. Mummert seconded the motion. The Chair asked for discussion; no discussion ensued. The motion was approved by members in attendance voting 'Aye'.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Harris
Secretary