

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

St. Louis, Missouri
August 31, 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, August 31, 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 Missouri History Museum Subdistrict and the Missouri Historical Society (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:

Thomas J. Campbell	Darnetta Clinkscale
Thomas C. Mummert	Christine Chadwick
Jill Nowak	

Robert Eggmann and Michelle Harris were absent. Other persons attending the meeting included Michael A. Chivell from Armstrong Teasdale LLP, the District's legal counsel, Steve Mermelstein, Consultant for RSM and District employees: J. Patrick Dougherty and Adrienne Mack.

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

Lisa D. McLaughlin, Chair of Missouri Historical Society Board of Trustees, welcomed the Board. Ms. McLaughlin thanked the community and the District for their continued support. She discussed the search process for Dr. Frances Levine's replacement due to the announcement of her retirement next year.

Dr. Simone Cummings, Chair of Missouri History Museum Subdistrict, shared her confidence in the strength of the Museum, the partnership with the District, and how the Museum has continued to serve the community by using lessons from the past to better face the challenges of tomorrow. Dr. Cummings emphasized the importance of being good stewards of the St. Louis City and St. Louis County tax dollars. She thanked Christina Renz, CFO, for her oversight during these difficult times and Dr. Frances Levine for her leadership to the Museum and leaving it stronger than when she arrived.

Dr. Frances Levine, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Missouri Historical Society, thanked the Chair and staff for their support. She presented information about protocols established at the Museum due to COVID-19. Dr. Levine stated the Museum is requiring all staff to be vaccinated by October 15, 2021, or weekly testing for COVID-19, unless there are medical and/or religious exemptions. She discussed the result of the recommendations/discussions of the cyber security audit. Dr. Levine shared information on virtual programs implemented during the 3-month shut down.

Christina Renz, Chief Financial Officer of the Missouri Historical Society, thanked the community and the District for their support. She stated that despite the Pandemic, the Museum's financial position is very strong. Ms. Renz presented an overview of the 2021 budget. There was no annual adjustment in original

2021 budget calculations. The Museum took a 4.5% Endowment draw with Operating Revenue totaling \$20.3 million dollars, Operating Expenses approaching \$20 million dollars due to the hiring of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility managing director, and the Investment Portfolio experienced a steady increase with strong market returns.

Dr. Levine continued by sharing that the Museum received Accreditation in January 2021, which was exemplary in every category. This is the first time Soldiers Memorial has received Accreditation. She discussed how the Museum used rapid response exhibits to embrace history as it was happening and new items in the Collections.

Dana Taylor, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Managing Director, shared her focus on building internal DEIA activities/practices, creating a welcoming space for the LGBTQIA+ community, decolonizing museums by centering voices, and giving supervisors the tools needed to have difficult conversations. She discussed how the staff will take an engagement survey and the Museum is committed to reflecting community diversity with both the staff and volunteers.

Dr. Levine concluded with discussing 2021 and 2022 Exhibits, virtual experiences, Twilight Thursday concert series in September, 2020-2021 awards and recognition, and vision for the future.

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

Approval of Minutes: The Vice Chair called for the approval of the minutes from the July 27, 2021, regular Board meeting.

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

Review of the Budget Presentation: The Vice 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 congratulated Dr. Levine for her tenure and acknowledged that she came in at a critical time.
- Board Members would like updates on the search process for a new President and Chief Executive Officer
- Board Members offered congratulations on the Museum's accreditation.

Executive Director's Report: Mr. Dougherty discussed the July 2021 internal financial reports.

Communications Committee Report: Communications Committee had nothing to report.

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

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee Report: Ms. Clinkscale shared that the value statement has been uploaded to the website and an annual review/update will be completed as necessary.

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

Old Business: Steve Mermelstein, RSM Consultant, provided an update on the Shared Services and Joint Purchasing engagement.

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

New Business: There was no New Business Report.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Harris

Secretary