

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

St. Louis, Missouri  
September 15, 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 Wednesday September 15, 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 Science Center Subdistrict and the Science Center Foundation (the "Science Center").

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	
Jill Nowak	

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

Public Comments: The Chair asked for public comments from those in attendance. Ms. G. Williams questioned the Board Members term limits and commented on the information on the District's website. A discussion ensued.

Saint Louis Science Center Subdistrict and Science Center Foundation Budget Presentation: The Chair welcomed the Saint Louis Science Center Subdistrict Commissioners, Science Center Foundation Trustees, the Management Team, and other guests.

Mark Bulanda, Chairman of the Saint Louis Science Center Subdistrict Board of Commissioners, provided a brief welcome to the District Board.

Todd Basteau, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Saint Louis Science Center welcomed and thanked the District Board for allowing the Science Center to participate in the meeting. He emphasized the incredible dedication and passion of the SLSC team. Mr. Basteau provided an overview of the Science Center's 2020 operations, which included the temporary 14-week closure due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, attendance, financials, and guest feedback. He noted that revenues were down \$6.1 million, expenses down \$5.7 million with a net loss of \$1.6 million, no outstanding funds in the line of credit, and 40% of the team was laid off but have since been able to bring some team members back to work. Mr. Basteau stated that overall, the team continued to adapt, be flexible, and nimble to get the Science Center through the early stages of the Pandemic. He continued his presentation with the 2021 budget. He discussed the conservativeness of the budget with a projected \$3.6 million loss and the eliminating of activities due to the pandemic. He discussed the Science Center's reliance on District funds, philanthropic support, and some earned revenue.

Jackie Mollet, Managing Director of Guest Services, presented the science, education, and guest experience update. She discussed the Mummies of the World exhibition, OMNIMAX theater films, Esports, and Tyrannosaurs: Meet the Family. Ms. Mollet presented the new Esports initiative that works with the local high school, universities, and the YES (Youth Exploring Science) Program where many of the teens oversee the games, game play, production, and streaming channel.

Andrea Durham, Chief Officer of Science and Education, presented science and education highlights. She discussed laser shows, Discover Science with Me (cancelled due to COVID-19), launching of YES Hybrid, learning about COVID-19, Root Tower Exhibit, Dinosaur Diorama, Solar Sundays (paused due to COVID-19), First Fridays (virtual during shut down), Summertime Science, and YES Teens: Pop-Up Science. Ms. Durham shared information regarding the partnership with the City of St. Louis Department of Health to develop material about COVID-19 to present to the community. She shared the nfte (Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship) winner and being voted one of the top 10 Science Center's in the country. Ms. Durham ended her presentation with a discussion about collaborations with the St. Louis Zoo, St. Louis Art Museum, and the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) advisory committee.

Mr. Basteau continued the presentation with the current operating status. He discussed that the Science Center is operating on a 5-day schedule due to guest attendance, staff lay-offs, mask mandates, highlighted that 90% of the Science Center's workforce is vaccinated, and announced the requirement that staff must be fully vaccinated by November 15, 2021. Mr. Basteau took the time to share that Barbara Boyle is retiring at the end of the year and thanked her for her years of service to the Science Center.

Barbara Boyle, Chief Executive Officer, presented the St. Louis Science Center's financial update. She discussed that attendance through August 31, 2021 is 34% less than the 2019 attendance to date. Ms. Boyle provided an overview of the 2021 financial projection. She noted the Science Center was \$2.5 million ahead of budget, visitor revenue and investment performance were stronger, and forgiveness was received for two PPP loans.

Mr. Basteau continued the presentation with the 2022 financial expectations. He discussed that the 2022 budget will look much like 2021, relying on cash flows, and spending several million dollars on deferred capital projects. Mr. Basteau gave an overview of the strategic plan update. He discussed the partnership with PGAV (Peckham Guyton Albers & Viets, Inc.), the 4-stage process (currently in stage 3), feedback/outreach with stakeholders in the community, getting closer to the community with a connector perspective, working around the 2030 jobs plan, creating new pathways, and building a robust facility infrastructure.

Deb Washington, Managing Director Human Resources and Siinya Williams, Senior Director of Community Science, shared an overview of the Diversity Equity Accessibility and Inclusion (DEAI) initiatives. Ms. Washington discussed that the DEAI committee was formed at the end of 2019. Due to the Pandemic, the climate assessments started in early 2020 were put on hold but was completed in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020, which resulted in wanting more diversity in leadership positions, inclusive practices, and training. She stated that Williams Consulting was hired to help in diversity/inclusion initiatives and to work on the equity/inclusion statement. Ms. Williams continued the discussion by highlighting the Science Center plans to include cultural days on their calendar, diversity of the entire institution, create a platform to ask questions, and the Community Science Showcase, which brings cultures from throughout the community to showcase.

Throughout the presentation, many District Board Members asked questions and/or provided comments. At the conclusion of the presentation, the Chair opened the meeting for additional questions and/or comments from the District Board Members. Discussions followed. The Chair thanked Mr. Bulanda, Mr.

Basteau, Ms. Mollet, Ms. Boyle, Ms. Williams, Ms. Washington, and Ms. Durham for their participation. The Chair also thanked Ms. Boyle for her dedicated service and wished her the best of luck.

The Chair addressed the discussion that ensued from Ms. G. Williams' comment during the Science Center's presentation. He gave an overview of the open meeting statute, "...not requiring the District or the St. Louis Science Center to have an open forum or questions from the public." The Chair welcomed Ms. G Williams to contact him directly with any further questions.

Approval of Minutes: The Chair called for the approval of the minutes from the August 31, 2021 regular Board meeting.

Mr. Campbell moved that the minutes be approved. Ms. Clinkscale 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 Science Center's management. The discussion included the following comments from Board Members:

- Ms. Clinkscale would like an update on the formation of the Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Inclusion committee.
- Ms. Chadwick would like an update on the DEAI equity statement. Other Board Members agreed.
- Board Members would like to be kept informed on the progress of the Strategic Plan
- Board Members were interested in the facility assessment that is expected to be included in the Strategic Plan.
- Board Members complimented the Science Center on the COVID-19 program, YES Teens program, collaborations with other Subdistricts, and high guest experience ratings.
- Ms. Chadwick would like to formerly thank Barbara Boyle for her tenure and congratulate her on her retirement. Other Board Members agreed.

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

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

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

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee Report: Ms. Clinkscale had nothing to report.

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. Clinkscale

seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Harris

Secretary