

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

St. Louis, Missouri  
August 30, 2022

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 30, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. The primary purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the 2022 budget and 2021 financial statements presented by the Missouri History Museum Subdistrict and the Missouri Historical Society (the “Museum”).

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

Darnetta Clinkscale	Kenneth Powell
Thomas C. Mummert	Christine Chadwick

Bradley Bakker, Michelle Harris, and Jill Nowak were absent. Other persons attending the meeting included Michael A. Chivell from Armstrong Teasdale LLP, the District’s legal counsel, and District employees: Matthew Pollock and Adrienne Mack.

Missouri History Museum Subdistrict and Missouri Historical Society Budget Presentation: The 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 and congratulated Dr. Jody Sowell, new President of the Missouri History Museum and introduced Board of Trustees in attendance.

Dr. Jody Sowell, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Missouri Historical Society, started the presentation with a brief history on ragtime in St. Louis and Scott Joplin. He discussed the launch of an advertising campaign, “I Am St. Louis and I Don’t Believe We’ve Met”. Dr. Sowell shared that only 24% of people feel connected to their community and MHS is here to share the power of public history.

Christina Renz, Chief Financial Officer of the Missouri Historical Society, thanked the community and the District for their support. She stated that despite the challenges, the Museum’s financial position is very strong with strong market returns and positive net income. Ms. Renz presented an overview of the 2022 budget with some of the cost saving methods being carried over from 2020 and 2021, mentioned the Museum took a 4.5% Endowment draw consistent with last several years, and discussed staff compensation and benefits, which is the Museum’s largest expense. She shared that total operating revenue was \$22.3 million.

Dr. Sowell continued by sharing how the Museum plans to expand how history will be told and the ways the St. Louis community will be introduced to the historical significance of their fellow St. Louisans.

Dara Taylor, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Managing Director shared the 2018-2022 subdistrict demographics, 2018-2022 Board of Trustees demographics, and the Museum's commitment to DEIA. She discussed the 2021 staff engagement survey, external advisory boards, addressing diversity through programming, creating the first standardized volunteer interpreter and tour guide training, and professional development opportunities. Ms. Taylor shared accessibility accommodations the Museum implemented over the last two years. She concluded with the 2022 staff and volunteer diversity demographics.

Dr. Sowell continued with highlights of the 2021-2022 exhibits, 2022 exhibit installations, noting that the 2022 Memorial Day ceremony was the largest in Museum's history, collections, attendance, Thursday Nights at the Museum, visitor residency statistics, program attendance, social media, website/eNews and awards/recognitions. He concluded the presentation with plans for the years ahead: introducing St. Louis, sharing more of the Museum's collections, wrestling with today's most pressing issues, telling stories in new ways, building community by reflecting it, and securing a sustainable future.

Dr. Simone Cummings, Chair of Missouri History Museum Subdistrict, thanked Jody Sowell for his commitment and enthusiasm as the new President of the Missouri Historical Society. She shared that the ZMD should understand that the Trustees are excited about the future of the Museum, by embracing changes and being involved.

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

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

- Ms. Chadwick congratulated the Museum on the Diversity work, marketing media collaborations, and their work in the community. She would like the Board to receive updates on the filling of the two open positions and the capital campaign progress.
- Mr. Powell discussed the complex history of the Native Americans and would like to see opportunities for an exhibit.
- Mr. Chivell would like Matt to follow-up on the Subdistrict Services Contract amendments to be copied/forwarded to the ZMD.
- Board Members offered congratulations on the Museum's outstanding work on the DEIA.
- Board members commended the Museum on the overall presentation.

Public Comments: The Chair asked for public comments from those in attendance. Simone Cummings, Chair of Missouri History Museum Subdistrict thanked the ZMD and shared that it is a great resource for the region.

Approval of Minutes: The Chair called for the approval of the minutes from the August 16, 2022 regular Board meeting.

Mr. Mummert moved that the minutes be approved. Ms. Chadwick seconded the motion. No discussion ensued. The minutes were approved with all members voting “Aye”.

Executive Director’s Report: Mr. Pollock discussed the July 2021 internal financial reports.

Personnel Committee Report: Ms. Clinkscale shared the resignation of Ms. Laura Thomson and moving forward with recruitment to fill the Office Assistant position.

Communications Committee Report: Mr. Pollock shared updates for the ZMD’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and ZMD days at the Subdistricts.

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

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee Report: Ms. Clinkscale shared information on updating the value/mission statement.

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

Old Business: Ms. Clinkscale shared information on her participation in the opening of the Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

New Business: Mr. Pollock provided status updates for the setting of the Tax Rates meeting set for September 27, 2022. Mr. Mummert shared the idea of the Board start in-person meetings. Ms. Clinkscale shared that the City Mayor is in the process of appointing a Board member.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Jill Nowak*

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Jill Nowak  
Secretary