



ZOOMUSEUMDISTRICT

*Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District*

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Zoo Museum District Board of Directors**

*July 18, 2023, 12:00 PM, via Zoom and in person at One Government Drive, St. Louis, MO 63110*

1. Darnetta Clinkscale, Chair of the Metropolitan Park and Museum District, called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

2. Upon roll call, the following members were present/absent:

Christine Chadwick, Absent

Bradley Bakker, Present

Darnetta Clinkscale, Present

Michelle Harris, Present

Shelia Hudson, Absent

Jill Nowak, Present

Thomas Mummert, Present

Kenneth Powell, Present

Others in Attendance: ZMD employees Matthew Pollock, Adrienne Mack, Florette Hampton, and Legal Counsel, Michael Chivell

3. The Chair asked for public comments from those in attendance. No comments resulted.
4. The Chair welcomed the Saint Louis Zoological Park staff, Board of Directors and Subdistrict officials.
5. Presentation by (See Exhibit A) Saint Louis Zoo officials. The following was discussed:
  - a. Cynthia Brinkley, Commission Chair – Welcome.
  - b. Dwight Scott, President & CEO – Opening remarks, introduction of leadership team and Zoo organizational updates.
  - c. Cassandra Brown Ray, CFO – Financial overview, see Appendix (X).
    - i. Noted that revenue from the ZMD taxing district provides approximately 25% of the operating revenue of the Zoo and is used to pay for salaries, benefits, utilities and other critical expenses.
    - ii. In 2022, 37% of attendees were residents of St. Louis City or St. Louis County.
    - iii. The Better Wild, Better World Campaign is underway to finance capital improvements and grow the Zoo's endowment.

- d. Michael Macek, Zoo Director – Strategic Plan & Zoo updates.
  - i. Provided an update on progress on initiatives in the 2019 Connect-Create-Conserve Strategic Plan.
  - ii. Shared plans for Destination Discovery which will focus on fostering an appreciation for animals and their habitats.
  - iii. Discussed Zoo leadership involvement in the St. Louis Anchor Action Network.
- e. Jim Madison, VP Business Operations – Operations update.
  - i. Highlighted new program offerings including giraffe feeding, new bird show and behind the scenes tours.
  - ii. Shared the Zoo’s Guest Promise.
- f. Rory James, Director DEAI – Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, Inclusion (DEAI) update.
  - i. Detailed the structure of the Zoo’s DEAI structure including workplace, community, culture and suppliers.
  - ii. Shared plans to expose children to zoological careers throughout their lives.
  - iii. Explained the 2023 cultural and outreach programs planned.
- g. Jo-Elle Mogerman, WildCare Park Director – WildCare Park update.
  - i. Showed renderings and plans for the Park.
  - ii. Provided data regarding community involvement and commitment to diversified design and construction teams.

Throughout the presentation, Board members asked questions and discussions ensued.

- 6. Board Members discussed the presentation and had the following comments:
  - a. Expressed admiration for Dwight Scott’s progress in assembling an impressive leadership team, including DEAI Director, over the past year.
  - b. Appreciated the Zoo’s commitment to diversify the vendor roster, particularly in construction projects.
  - c. Recognized the Zoo’s leadership team is engaged in the community-both with other ZMD institutions and the broader community through the St. Louis Anchor Action Network and other community development collaborations.
  - d. Requested that the ZMD staff and board be updated on expansion and construction progress, and any challenges encountered.
- 7. A motion to approve the June 13, 2023 regular/closed Board Meeting Minutes was made by Bradley Bakker and seconded by Michelle Harris. The Chair asked for discussion; no discussion ensued. The minutes were unanimously approved by a roll call vote.
- 8. Discussion items on the circulated agenda were deferred to the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

16. The Chair asked for a motion to go into Closed Session; Pursuant to Section 610.021 (1) legal issues and (12) negotiation of a contract. Bradley Bakker moved to close the meeting. Jill Nowak seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved by roll call vote. The Board went into closed session at 1:47 pm.
  
17. The closed session of the meeting adjourned, and the regular meeting was opened at 2:20 pm. and immediately adjourned upon motion by Bradley Bakker and seconded by Michelle Harris. It was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Minutes from the Closed Session of the meeting will be prepared by Florette Hampton and filed at the office of Armstrong Teasdale, LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jill Nowak*

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Jill Nowak  
Secretary