



## **Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District**

*April 22, 2025 12:00 PM, via Zoom at 5700 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63112*

Michelle Harris, Chair of the Metropolitan Park and Museum District, called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

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

Bradley Bakker, Present	Michelle Harris, Present
Darnetta Clinkscale, Present	Jill Nowak, Absent
Shelia Hudson, Absent	Kenneth Powell, Absent
Thomas Mummert, Present	

Others in Attendance: ZMD employees Adrienne Mack, Florette Hampton, and Legal Counsel, Jennifer Byrne.

Ms. Harris asked for public comments from those in attendance. No comments resulted.

Ms. Harris welcomed the Missouri History Subdistrict Commissioners, Missouri Historical Society Trustees, MHS Management team, and other guests. The meeting was turned over to the History Museum.

Presentation by Missouri History Museum officials. The following was discussed:

- Peter Kastor, Chair of Missouri Historical Society Board of Trustees— Welcomed the ZMD, shared his background, mentioned the three opening exhibits and thanked the ZMD for its generous support and partnership.
- Cynthia Crim, Chair Missouri History Museum Subdistrict – Delightfully welcomed the ZMD on behalf of the Subdistricts Commissioners. Thanked the ZMD for its ongoing support which allows the History Museum to be a gathering place which hosts Thursday Nights at the Museum and Twilight Thursday held at the newly named Edward and Margaret Imo Family Plaza dedicated May 1, 2025.
- Dr. Jody Sowell, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Missouri Historical Society – started with the announcement that Karen Goering is

retiring after 45 years of service. Mr. Sowell shared an overview of Anna the Mexican Wolf, Partial Test Ban Treaty and Katherine Dunham exhibits which has ties to the St. Louis region. Mr. Sowell highlighted the MHS accomplishments: 1904 World's Fair, Sold on St. Louis, New to St. Louis, Collected, History Club House, Thursday Nights at the Museum, Twilight Thursday concert series, Gateway to Pride, Ghost Army, and the African American History Initiative.

- Christina Renz, Chief Financial Officer of the Missouri Historical Society - stated MHS ended 2024 in a very strong position, strong market return, positive net income and MHS would not be able to do this work without the ZMD as well as the community. She highlighted the 2025 MHS Budgeted Revenue/Expenses: \$28M based on historical projections, upcoming activities/exhibits and fundraising. ZMD revenue accounts for \$13.5M or 48%, Capital Campaign accounts for \$8.7M or 31.2%. Ms. Renz shared that a 4.5M endowment draw was taken from MHS and Soldiers Memorial endowment or 4.5% which is consistent with prior years. Operating Expenses are just over \$28M; 80% of total operating expenses go back into the MHS mission with remaining costs being administrative costs and campaign costs. A large part of the MHS budget is salary/benefits. She concluded that MHS endowment ended 2024 in a great place at \$105M.
- Dr. Sowell shared information on upcoming attractions: Mill Creek History, Tuskegee Airmen, Two Minutes to Midnight, fall release of the Nineth STL History Minute, St. Louis Birthday Bash, February 2026, St. Louis at Bat, See St. Louis Tours will continue, Gallery St. Louis to open 2027, We are St. Louis to end, will continue the I Am St. Louis presentation. The MHS extended a special thank you to the St. Louis City and County Taxpayers who provide their base support through the ZMD.

Ms. Harris thanked everyone for the presentation.

Board Members made comments but no questions were asked.

A motion to approve March 25, 2025, regular and closed Board Meeting Minutes was made by Darnetta Clinkscale and seconded by Brad Bakker. The Chair asked for discussion; no discussion ensued. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

No committee reports.

Ms. Bryne had nothing to report.

No Old Business or New Business to report.

There being no further business of the Board, Darnetta Clinkscale moved that the regular meeting be adjourned Mr. Baker seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

*Brad Bakker*

---

Bradley Bakker  
Secretary