



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

May 20, 2025, 12:00 PM, via Zoom at One Government Drive, St. Louis, MO 63110

Ms. 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, Present
Shelia Hudson, Absent	Kenneth Powell, Present
Thomas Mummert, Absent	

Others in Attendance: ZMD employees Matthew Pollock, 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 Saint Louis Zoological Park Staff, Board of Directors and Subdistrict Officials. The meeting was turned over to the Saint Louis Zoological Park officials.

Presentation by the Saint Louis Zoological Park officials. The following was discussed:

- Larry Thomas, St. Louis Zoological Park Subdistrict Commission Chair – Welcomed and thanked the ZMD for support.
- Michael Hickey, St. Louis Zoo Association President – Welcomed the ZMD, shared he is proud for and excited of the work the Zoo is doing.
- Dwight Scott, President & CEO – Mr. Scott opened the meeting giving an overview of the damages the Zoo sustained during the May 16, 2025 tornado and thanked the ZMD leadership for being one of the first to reach out. Mr. Scott introduced Kathleen Tisone as the new CFO.
- Kathleen Tisone, Vice President, Finance & CFO – Ms. Tisone noted that 2024 was an exceptional year, serving just under three million guests. She also highlighted 2023-2025 Tax Support as a % of Operating Revenue, Total Revenue, Operating Net Revenue, and Operating Expenses. The Zoo receives

about \$25M - \$27M a year in tax support through the ZMD. Historical Attendance with March YTD Data was highlighted. Ms. Tisone also highlighted 2025 year-to-date financial results.

- Regina Mossotti, VP Animal Care – Ms. Mossotti shared updates regarding the Polar Bears. She presented a slide show highlighting the recently born baby goat and baby elephant. She shared they had just finished the renovations on the solarium, and it was damaged by the tornado. The Komodo dragon from the Bronx Zoo will join the St. Louis Zoo, naming him Charlie Hessel, after the former CEO.
- Michael Macek, Zoo Director - Shared the 2024 Initiatives outlined in their Strategic Plan – 2024 Initiatives which included the completion of the Herpetarium Solarium, construction on Destination Discovery, Infrastructure spend of \$7.2M, and the continuation of the Better Wild Better World Campaign. Additionally, he shared that the Employee Engagement Survey was completed and shared, there are now 40+ Job Readiness/Development Programs, and the Conservation Education Plan was completed. He announced New Audience Partnerships with the blind and visually impaired community: See Like Me, African American Civic Organizations: Zoo/Science Center Open House, and Low-income Household Students: Zoo/Gateway to Great Outdoors Partnership. New parking technology was introduced and has improved parking operations. AZA Accreditation inspection is coming June 2025. Mr. Macek shared information regarding Animals Aglow Lantern Festival and the upcoming Romeo & Zooliet play tickets which are on sale now.
- Sabarras George, St. Louis Zoo Wildcare Park Director – Mr. George highlighted the new species at the park. The park is projecting 250 + adult animals by 2027. Mr. George also explained the different types of safaris. The Giraffe and Rhino Barns were highlighted. Mr. George shared information regarding Conservation Education Partnerships with UMSL/local youth and Hazelwood Central High School.
- Amy Dove, Vice President, Philanthropy – Ms. Dove provided updates regarding Better Wild, Better World Campaign and provided a current campaign progress report. The total goal in the campaign for the endowment was to raise \$20M and to date they have raised \$24M.
- Dwight Scott, Dana Brown President & CEO – Thanked the Board for being here and noted how they value the way our relationship continues to get stronger.

Ms. Harris thanked everyone for the presentation. It was an excellent presentation, and she thanked the Zoo for their hard work.

Ms. Harris asked for comments to put in the letter. Some comments included Wildcare Park updates, press releases, infrastructure improvements, and community impact outside of Zoo services.

A motion to approve the April 22, 2025 regular Board Meeting Minutes was made by Ms. Clinkscale and was seconded by Mr. Powell. The Chair asked for discussion; no discussion ensued. The minutes were unanimously approved with a roll call vote

Ms. Harris asked Mr. Pollock for an Executive Directors report.

Mr. Pollock discussed the December, January, and February financial statements. He explained the multi-year agreement with Liberty Mutual for workers comp. He thanked Ms. Byrne for taking notes in his absence. He also shared information from his Focus St. Louis Emerging Leaders Program.

Ms. Harris asked for Committee Reports.

Ms. Nowak shared the Audit Committee received the audit from KEB, reviewed, and approved it. It was confirmed that the finalized audited financial statements were forwarded to the City and County ahead of the statutory deadline.

Ms. Bryne had nothing to report.

No Old Business or New Business.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Bakker

Bradley Bakker
Secretary