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

August 5, 2025, 12:00 PM, via Zoom at 5050 Oakland Ave, St. Louis, MO 63110

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Mr. Mummert, Vice Chair of the Metropolitan Park and Museum District, called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

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

Bradley Bakker, Present
Darnetta Clinkscale, Absent
Jill Nowak, Present
Thomas Mummert, Present
Michelle Harris, Absent
Kenneth Powell, Present
Brittany Robbins, Present

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

The Chair asked for public comments from those in attendance. No comments resulted.

Mr. Mummert welcomed the Saint Louis Science Center Subdistrict Commissioners, the Science Center Foundation Trustees, the Science Center's Management team members, and other guests. The meeting was turned over to the Science Center.

Presentation by St. Louis Science Center officials. The following was discussed:

- Dr. Mark Wrighton, Commission Chair – Welcomed the ZMD.
- Dr. Ray Vandiver, President and CEO – Dr. Vandiver opening remarks included his educational background, community and St. Louis roots. He shared how access to museums shaped his identity and career in science education. Dr. Vandiver stated the Science Center Mission is to inspire everyone to be curious and engaged in science.
- Dr. Lamara Warren, Managing Director, IDEA - Dr. Warren highlighted Innovation + Relevance, Audience + Community and Vision + Possibility. Dr. Warren shared that 95% of learning occurs outside the classroom. She continued

to highlight information on Community Impacts, Tomorrow's workforce and transformation.

- Dr. Ray Vandiver - Shared information regarding the Strategic Plan, highlighting the New Experience, New Focus, Building Financial Strength slides.
- Beth Kastner, CFO – Highlighted Attendance, 2025 Budget Revenue with ZMD tax revenue providing 65% of revenue. Talent costs is 16-65% of budget expenses; benefits maintained to attract talent. Endowment showed steady growth; capital campaign aims to further strengthen fiscal balance.
- Mindy Peirce, Managing Director, Marketing & Communications - Ms. Peirce highlighted the media tour introducing Dr. Vandiver to the St. Louis area. She spotlighted the Pompeii exhibition, the Science Center received National Recognition as the #1 Best Planetarium, 2 Best Free Museum and #5 Best Science Museum.
- Dr. Becky Thompson, Chief Science and Education Officer – Dr. Thompson highlighted the Up Late! Event, Stem Events and Youth Exploring Science program (YES)
- Bobby Sanderson, Chief Institutional Advancement Officer – Mr. Sanderson shared information regarding Membership Milestone, membership surpassed 10,000 households, STL For All Membership, Einstein Society, Corporate Partners and fundraiser Wunder – A Quantum Blast, October 4, 2025.
- Dr. Ray Vandiver - Dr. Vandiver also highlighted Current Initiative, Yes Program, Planetarium and Exhibits Team. Master Planning - to create a comprehensive, long-range plan for property improvements, and Capital Campaign.
- Molecular Mark – Demonstrated pH changes using phenolphthalein indicator and sodium hydroxide which showed color changes indicating pH shifts; process is reversible.

Mr. Mummert thanked the Science Center for the presentation.

Board members asked questions/made comments from recognizing successful collaborations, the Yes Program, underserved school districts, cultural relevance and more.

A motion to approve June 24, 2025, regular/closed Board Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Bakker and seconded by Mr. Powell. The Chair asked for discussion; no discussion ensued. The minutes were unanimously approved with members saying "Aye".

Mr. Pollock gave an overview of the financial statements, insurance payments, will draft security protocol and reform across the state regarding property tax.

No committee reports.

Mr. Bakker will schedule a meeting for the Communication Committee soon.

No Old or New Business to report.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Bakker

Bradley Bakker
Secretary