



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

August 26, 12:00 PM, via Zoom at 4344 Shaw Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63110

Ms. Harris, Chair of the Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District, called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM.

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

Bradley Bakker, Present

Jill Nowak, Present

Darnetta Clinkscale, Absent

Kenneth Powell, Present

Michelle Harris, Present

Brittany Robbins, Present

Thomas Mummert, Present

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.

Mr. Harris welcomed the Missouri Botanical Garden Subdistrict Commissioners, the Missouri Botanical Garden Trustees, the Garden's Management team members, and other guests. A special welcome was extended to the new President Dr. Lucia Lohmann and Mayor Cara Spencer.

Presentation by the Missouri Botanical Garden officials. The following was discussed:

- Mike Stern, Board Vice Chairman – Welcomed and thanked the ZMD for their support. Mr. Stern also shared Dr. Lucida Lohmann was appointed as new Garden President, and Dr. Peter Wise Jacson became President Emeritus.
- Kristin Thompson, Garden Subdistrict Chairman – Thanked the ZMD and others in attendance. She highlighted the RSI Project and welcomed Dr. Lohmann to the Garden.
- Dr. Lucia Lohmann, President and Director – Dr. Lohmann thanked the ZMD for their support which is crucial to everything the Garden do. Dr. Lohmann shared her educational background. She presented: Garden's legacy and impressions, achievements, financial overview and future preparations. Dr.

Lohmann discussed the Garden supported St. Louis tornado recovery, free admissions, community aid and butterfly rescue.

- Keith Archer, - Chief Operating Officer – Mr. Archer shared the tax revenue comprised 20-30% of operating revenue of last 5 years: 26% in 2024, projected same for 2025. ZMD funding in 2024 used 100% for staff compensation, covering \$14M of \$33.4M total compensations expenses. Revenue sources remained balanced, and the Garden received a \$14.4M grant in 2024 for digitizing herbarium collection; revenue recognized in 2024, but the expenses will be recorded the next six years. Endowment market value at \$207M, endowment distribution rate reduced to 4.3%, net assets nearly \$400M, liabilities \$7M, the Garden remains debt-free.
- Dr. Lucia Lohmann, President and Director – She concluded her remarks with Strategic Planning (starting January 1 re: listening and learning mode), Organizational Structure and Future Focus. She reviewed 2025 activities and future preparation. She also identified the need to integrate divisions, review values, set clear priorities and enhance community strategy. She highlighted the need for new organizational structures to improve efficiency, collaboration, and resource use

Ms. Harris thanked everyone for the presentation.

Board Members asked questions. A discussion ensued.

Ms. Harris welcomed the board back, She asked that we review and discuss the information provided during the MBG presentation. Matt will include them in post meeting correspondence.

A motion to approve August 5, 2025 regular Board Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Mummert and was seconded by Ms. Nowak. The Chair asked for discussion; no discussion ensued. The minutes were unanimously approved with members saying “Aye”.

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

Mr. Pollock discussed sending a follow-up letter to MBG. September 23rd board meeting will approve preliminary tax rates: quorum required. ZMD staff continues to work on security protocol and emergency responses; update to be shared at November budget meeting.

No committee reports.

Ms. Bryne had nothing to report.

No Old Business or New Business

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

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Bakker

Bradley Bakker
Secretary