



ZOOMUSEUMDISTRICT

Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District

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

*January 20, 2026 12:00 PM, via Zoom and in person at 1001 Highlands Plaza Drive W,
Suite 310, St. Louis, MO 63110.*

Michelle Harris, Chair of the Metropolitan Park and Museum District, called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM.

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

Bradley Bakker, Present

Jill Nowak, Present

Darnetta Clinkscale, Present

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.

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

Ms. Harris stated the next item of business is the election of officers. In even numbered years, the ZMD nominates members for the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, which will serve a two-year-term.

Ms. Harris, as outgoing Chair, thanked the Subdistrict, Board members and Staff for their dedication and hard work. The ZMD provides a donation to one of the five sub-districts on Ms. Harris behalf.

Mr. Mummert was nominated and elected as the new Chair, succeeding Ms. Harris.

Other elected officers include Ms. Nowark as Vice Chair, Mr. Baker as Treasurer and Mr. Powell as Secretary. As Treasurer, Mr. Baker will automatically serve as the Chair of the Audit Committee.

A motion to approve November 18, 2025 regular Board Meeting Minutes was made by Ms. Clinkscale and seconded by Mr. Bakker. The Chair asked for discussion; no discussion ensued. The motion was approved by all members present voting “Aye”.

Mr. Pollock provided updated information regarding the 2026 ZMD Meeting Schedule and Board member Appointments/Reappointments. Mr. Pollock also shared we’ve moved from Zoom platform to Microsoft ecosystem.

Mr. Mummert shared committee assignments, Mr. Baker, Chair Audit Committee, Ms. Robbins, Chair Community Relations, and Mr. Powell Chair DEAI Committee.

No committee reports.

Legal counsel will report in closed session.

No Old Business to report.

New Business.

A discussion was initiated regarding the Science Center abruptly canceling the “Youth Exploring Science” (YES) and Marting Luther King Day programs. Mr. Mummert will contact the Science Center director for an official explanation and report back to the board.

The board reviewed the Conflict-of-Interest policy which was changed from every two years to annually and approved with a roll call vote.

All Board members are to review the Board Performance Survey questionnaire and email feedback to Ms. Harris, Mr. Pollock and Mr. Mummert, Chair.

The Chair asked for a motion to go into Closed Session Pursuant to Section 610.021 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri Subsection (1) and (15).

By unanimous roll call vote the Board was moved to Closed session at 1:20 pm. The closed session of the meeting adjourned, and the regular meeting was opened at 2:10 pm and immediately adjourned upon motion by Mr. Powell seconded by Ms. Robbins. 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,

Kenneth Powell III

Kenneth Powell III (Mar 25, 2026 13:42:53 CDT)

Kenneth Powell
Secretary