

**SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS
MEETING OF THE BIOLOGICAL PARK ADVISORY BOARD**

Monday, January 14, 2019
903 Tenth Street, SW
Zoo Library

Board Members Present: Tiana Baca, Tanesia R Hale-Jones, Christine Glidden, Karl Horak, Adam Silverman and Christine Weidmann-Wilson.

Board Members Absent: Three unconfirmed seats

Staff Present: Dr. Shelle Sanchez (Director Cultural Services), Baird Fleming (BioPark Administrator), Rochelle Shaw (Recording Secretary)

Guests: Julie Miller Rugg (Executive Director New Mexico BioPark Society)

Board Secretary noted that the meeting began at 4:06pm, a quorum was present.

Baird Fleming: Welcomed the Board to the first meeting. He began the meeting by distributing the Board By-Laws and asking the Board members if they received his email greeting. Baird continued with a description of the BioPark. “The BioPark is a strange entity within the municipal system. We are a combination of a living museum, a retirement home for animals, and a conservation center. We have a governing Authority that is City of Albuquerque but we are accredited by AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums) and that is probably the most important part for us. Because AZA has a list of standards that the BioPark must meet or exceed, there is not half way, there is no almost. And often times with municipalities that is a hard sell, they do not understand the importance of accreditation... The ramifications of not being accredited are huge – you can lose permits, migratory bird permits, fish and wildlife, Water fowl permits, import/export, the list is extensive so if that happens you end up having to purchase animals. Being AZA accredited you get animals by loan or sometimes by gift. We do not look at animals as actual property because they are invaluable, whereas if you are not accredited and you have to buy a giraffe you can spend as much as \$130,000 for a female giraffe. It would be difficult for the City to keep up with the expenses. We do not own many of the animals that are housed at the BioPark, including hippos, gorillas, rhinos, they belong to other institutions some are on loan and in turn some of our animals are loaned to other institutions.

Baird – ok I will start – I’m Dr. Baird Fleming, veterinarian by training, grew up in Honduras, in Central America, that is my home and I still have a house there and my jaguar (the four legged kind) and I worked with wildlife professionally. Create change, beauty of nature.

Baird introduced Julie Miller Rugg, She is the executive director of the New Mexico BioPark Society.

Julie Miller Rugg: I am Julie the Executive director of NMBPS the support organization for the BioPark. We support the BioPark by \$1.5 - \$ 2 Million annually. We were also responsible for getting the GRT on the ballot. 14 more years of construction and improvements.

Christine Weidmann-Wilson: I have my own Veterinary practice and wanted to be more involved in the community and engage in public service.

Adam Silverman – Family Business, Commercial Real Estate business, sales. On the Board for over a year.

Karl Horak – Docent at the Botanic Garden. Was asked by his neighbor, Helen Maestas to apply for the board. Retired from Sandia. Was IT guy at Sandia Labs working on Weapons of Mass destruction nonproliferation?????. Is a plant identification specialist.

Tiana Baca – is a farmer and educator – community education and development – Collaborative plant, desert

Tanesia – Poet, Writer, Artist, Montessori School teacher, nature Human lastly

Christine Glidden – founder of a Non-profit - we distribute underwear and washable sanitary pads to girls. She has served on many boards and committees

Baird – Agenda – Out of what we do – elephants need to move. Walking path 2 ½ miles long, Enrichment elephants. Talked about Alice (Asian Elephant – Circus Elephant – Over weight and out of condition and how she would not live long – Put her on Pilates) and how she came out to us. Alice is now 50 years old. 10 Acres for elephants.

The Refusium – Endangered species

Guam King Fisher and Socorro dove. We have reintroduced the Socorro Dove back to Socorro Island, Mexico. And we have a majority of the doves.

Tree Snail – We can make a difference.

Private School – such as Montessori School, Nature

Open penguins in late April

Birds of prey is being re-meshed – 2 years for meshing is a long time – raccoons

Kitchen redone Asia

We do not want to add, we just want to improve.

Asia – Bride

Australia – last Sea Lion Tommy passed away

The collection plan

Talked about relocating animals until exhibits are ready

Sea Lions will be moved to the north side refusium

Penguins – Species – Blue, King, Dingo, Rock

Cat exhibit

We have the Best Polar Bear exhibit

Central Corridor

Admissions

Tingley ponds,

Multi-Level parking structure at the Northside – to accommodate ROL parking, Zoo Boo parking and all special events that need overflow parking

Aquarium Expansion was not cost effective

Butterfly pavilion – going to the Mediterranean Garden so that it will no longer be seasonal

Asia/Australia – Strange Set backs

Birds of prey

Dr. Shelle Sanchez – Department Director
Budget FY/19

Tiana- so what is holding up the exhibits?

Baird – Zoo exhibits are complicated. We have to work around the animals, Jack Hammers, paint, noise can all be harmful to the animals. These are all daily challenges – working around the animals.

Adam – What are the challenges? Money, GRT Challenges???

Baird – design exhibit, contactors, DMD,

Adam – had questions regarding the Master Plan.

Baird – GRT -- 25 % for repair and 75 % for New construction.

Baird – General fund and special revenue

Karl – stated the he thought the buggerium was the best he had ever walk through.

Julie - Stated that was the last in house construction project the BioPark staff allowed to do.

Dr. Sanchez – Stated that she would try to attend most of the meeting but that she tries to attend the other Division board meeting as well.

Christine Glidden asked how many positions were filled?

Baird informed the board the presently 6 positions are filled. – 3 positions represent the Aquarium, 3 represent the zoo and 3 represent the Garden but we all work as one.

Dr. Sanchez – City Council confirms the xxxxx/mayor can meet but not act on any actions.

Adam – Can the Board make recommendations?

Dr. Sanchez – Public Arts - Your job is to make suggestions. Recommendations be the advocate for the Board.

Christine Glidden Will we be able to prioritize the construction projects?

Dr. Sanchez – the Staff get input and then we will follow the Master Plan, Keepers have a say, conservation committee leadership group.

Baird – Aquarium/Garden are only 20 years old – the zoo is 90 years old

Julie – help lobby, Council and Mayor

Dr. Sanchez – I will support the mayor’s budget – 100 percent – you can always go to the City Council and lobby for what you want.

Baird stated that 2/3 of the members would constitute a quorum – 4 members.

Dr. Sanchez – stated that the meeting schedule had been set for the year.

At that point Baird discussed electing a Chairman

Dr. Sanchez added that there should be a chair and co-chair.

Karl nominated Christine Glidden as chair and Tanisha as co-chair.

Baird discussed the annual health and welfare. The BioPark is one of the leading institutions in the nation. Red list – 300 Species, Plants/fish. Aza all together has only archived 250.

Top 10% very strong, Education, Safety, and Security – Not only worry about people coming in but animals getting out.

17 million in GRT and 17 million in General fund, Great Experience, Staff and facility

Christine requested a one hour meeting with Baird and 3 members of the board.

Dr. Sanchez encouraged a little more time on the committee before these meeting take place.

Karl is a docent at the garden and offered tours of the Botanic Garden.

Dr. Sanchez requested that she be on the March meeting agenda. She will be discussing the budget.

Baird explained that the BioPark is a division with Cultural Services.

Next meeting on March 11, 2019, at the same time.

Baird - we are one BioPark – much intergraded representing all facilities as a whole.

Christine – would like the veterinarians to attend the next meeting. She also discussed the length of the meeting time. Should be 60 – 90 minutes.

There being no further business, Baird requested a motion for adjournment; a motion was made by Alex, seconded by Karl and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.