



City of Albuquerque  
Department of Arts and Culture

**ABQ BioPark Advisory Group  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, August 2023 4:00 - 5:30 pm**

**ABQ BioPark Zoo – Zoo Library**

**Members present:**

Karl Horak  
Jeremiah Gwin  
Colin Barnett  
Rachel Hawkins  
Kristina Chongsirirwatana  
Angela  
Bruce  
Tim McBride

**Staff present:**

Stephanie Stowell  
Marina Tafoya  
Dr. Carol Bradford  
Matthew Peterson

- I. Call to Order –
- II. Approval of Agenda – Jeremy moved to approve, Colin 2<sup>nd</sup>
- III. Approval of the Minutes from June 2, 2023 meeting - Rachel to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> Christina.
- IV. Public Comment – from Jeremy, had friend follow BioPark on social media, enjoys hearing positive feedback. Shuttle still not operating – stay tuned for more info.
- V. Discussions and Presentations
  - A. Dr. Carol Bradford – Elephant update

- Routine exams to detect any problems early on. Can be annual or bi-annually, depends on species. Include dental cleaning, bloodwork, urine analysis, etc. Preshipment exams include routine exam steps, want to verify all animals shipped are healthy. Sick animal exams are discussed with zookeepers to pinpoint important changes.
- Aquarium – place microchips in stingrays, also weighing them.
- Recent exams: Irene’s (elephant) eye exam, this resulted in an eye infection. Safely and successfully performed surgery with loads of help from elephant staff, fire dept, and fellow vets. Made a full recovery. Albert diagnosed with TB apx. 6 weeks ago, has been on new meds for about a week and is responding well.
- Babies! Bulan turned 1 on 5/13. Mashika will be 1 on 8/10.
- Special thanks to all consultants!

B. Matthew Peterson – Botanic Garden/Heritage Farm Manager – Mediterranean/Lebanese Garden project update: spearheaded by donor approaching NMBPS with funds and creative ideas. Conceptual design created pretty early on, 16 new “designed” areas. Will be located behind existing conservatory. Want to entice guests to explore, and be curious about what will be around the next corner. Timestamp: as early as January ‘24, before ROL. Opening in summertime (estimated).

- Heritage Farm Update: Construction phase is underway, demo is complete, foundations have been poured for barns and admin offices. Framed cider barn, bringing up to food standards. No cider this year, sorry! ☹ Exploring a different variety of options for apples this year.

## VI. Current/Old Business

### A. Subcommittee Reports and Discussion

- a. Bylaws Subcommittee – reached out to D. Manzano haven't heard back, reinitiated info in regards to Ordinance. District 2 & 7 to be appointed at 8/27 meeting.
  - Possibly set up regularly scheduled meeting for subcommittees, months in between of advisory board meetings can be utilized for subcommittee meetings. Quarterly meetings are minimum amount. Stephanie to consolidate Public Outreach and Guest Experience Committee.
- b. Annual Report Subcommittee – no updates
- c. Public Outreach Subcommittee – no updates
- d. Guest Experience Subcommittee – no updates
- e. Master Plan/GRT Subcommittee – no updates

VII. Announcements/Staff Updates

- A. Board Chair Announcements
- B. Board Announcements
- C. Project Updates (BioPark staff) – cannot give concrete update on shuttle, stay tuned for more info! ABQ BioPark earned Global Humane Seal of Approval. Annual report for GRT going out 8/8. Asia opening, yay! Set to open late September/mid – October, depending on animal adjustment.

VIII. New Business

- Bruce to move to make advisory board meetings quarterly, Colin 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous vote to move to quarterly.
- Move to discuss: possibly leave time 4:00-5:30PM. When will the 4 months be? October, February, March, ?. Will discuss next meeting in October, bring calendar!
- Stephanie transition: Brandon will be present for meeting, will act as new BioPark liaison. Stephanie last day is August 11, 2023, will still be available for questions/concerns.

IX. Next Regular Meeting – October 3, 2023 4-5:30pm

X. Adjourn – move to adjourn Colin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bruce.