



City of Albuquerque
Department of Arts and
Culture

**ABQ BioPark Advisory
Group MEETING
MINUTES**

Tuesday, April 2, 2024 4:00 - 5:30 pm

ABQ BioPark Zoo – Zoo Library

Members Present:

Colin Barnett

Mike Guier

Karl Horak

Tim McBride

Rachel Hawkins

Fred Whiteman – Jennings

Laura Harris

Jon Sanchez

Staff Present:

Matthew Peterson

Marina Tafoya

Public Present:

Jeremiah Gwin

- I. Call to Order –
 - a. Tim McBride called meeting to order.
- II. Approval of Agenda –
 - a. Colin Barnett approved 4/2/24 meeting agenda, Karl Horak seconds.
- III. Approval of the Minutes from January 2024 meeting –
 - a. Colin Barnett approved previous meeting minutes, Karl Horak seconds.
- IV. Public Comment –
 - a. Comments were made by Jeremiah Gwin. Stated that the elephant pregnancy was well announced, but felt disappointed that the BioPark didn't take this opportunity to shine a light and educate the public more on elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus, (EEHV), that has taken the lives of 2 elephants at the BioPark.
- V. Discussions and Presentations
 - a. Chair and Vice Chair Elections
 - i. Amplify public knowledge and inform them of the 3 current vacancies on the board.
 - ii. Fred Whiteman – Jennings self – nominated as chair. All were in favor, vote was unanimous.
 - iii. Colin Barnett self-nominated as Vice Chair. All were in favor, vote was unanimous.
- VI. Current/Old Business
 - a. Subcommittee Reports and Discussions
 - i. All were in favor of subcommittee work being done during meeting times until they are big enough to meet separately.
 - ii. Subcommittees will reconstitute once all vacancies are filled.
- VII. Announcements/Staff Updates
 - a. Board Chair Announcements – None.
 - b. Board Announcements – None.
 - c. Project/GRT Updates (BioPark Staff)
 - i. We now have the 2024 Facility Plan, to guide us for the next 8 years. That gets us to the end of this GRT funding cycle.

- ii. The BioPark team reviewed over 50 projects with estimated budgets and prioritized them based upon the following decision criteria, (the list of 50 projects got narrowed down to 26): safety of guests, staff, and animals, mission/strategic fit, alignment with 2014 master plan, impact on guest experience, condition/age of building, impact on staff operations, and finances.
- iii. Since Facility Plan Update discussions began, 8 projects have already been completed or are actively underway: Asia, Australia phase 1, Heritage Farm, Hippo Pool, Farm Train, Concert Pavilion, Shrimp Boat removal.
- iv. Highlights of what is coming short term (now thru 2026): Mexican Wolf Refuge, Catwalk Renovation, Australia phase 2, S.H.A.R.C., Zoo & AQ/BG Entrances.
- v. Reminder: The Facility Plan could still change. 8 years is a long time. We will balance strategy and flexibility to make sure we're making the best use of funds. We'll continue to use the same criteria to evaluate projects.

- Animal Updates

- Lar and White Cheeked Gibbons in old siamang habitat
- Little Blue Penguins (x6) (Australia Habitat)
- Micronesian Kingfisher (Australia Habitat)
- Malayan tiger, "Triton" – came from Palm Beach, Florida
 - SSP recommendation for a breeding pair
 - Began mesh to mesh introductions this week
- King Penguins, "Tubby" and "Heart"
 - SSP recommendation to take our all male flock of kings from 9 to 11 to support this colonial species' social needs.
- Trigger fishes and Spadefish

- HR Update

- BioPark Executive announcement likely mid-April

VIII. New Business

- a. Chair and Vice Chair elections – See section: V. Discussions and Presentations.

- IX. Next Regular Meeting – Tuesday July 9th, 2024.
- X. Adjourn – motioned by Tim McBride, seconded by Colin Barnett.