



City of Albuquerque
Department of Arts and Culture

**ABQ BioPark Advisory Group
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 4:00 - 5:30 pm

ABQ BioPark Zoo – Zoo Library

Board Members Present:

Colin Barnett

Angela Alderete

Kristina Chong

Fred Whiteman - Jennings

Karl Horak

Harper Kuehn

Jeanette Baca

BioPark Staff Present:

Brandon Gibson

Matthew Peterson

Marina Tafoya

I. Call to Order:

- a. Karl Horak called meeting to order.

II. Approval of Agenda:

- a. Kristina Chong moved to approved meeting agenda for 1/9/24, was seconded by Colin Barnett.

III. Approval of the Minutes from October, 2023 meeting:

- a. Karl moved to approve meeting minutes for 10/3/23, was seconded by Angela Alderete.

IV. Public Comment:

- a. No public comments.

V. Discussions and Presentations:

a. Chair and Vice Chair Elections:

- i. Discussed to notify and also emphasize that board elections will be taking place next meeting, **Tuesday 4/2/2024**. Ensure there is board member attendance. This motion was moved by Colin Barnett to postpone, and seconded by Angela Alderete, all voted in favor.

VI. Current/Old Business

A. Subcommittee Reports and Discussion

- a. Bylaws Subcommittee:
- b. Annual Report Subcommittee

B. Public Outreach

- a. has been combined with Guest Experience Subcommittee. (Max limit of members reached)
- e. Facility Plan/GRT Subcommittee

VII. Announcements/Staff Updates

- 1.1 million guests
- AQ/Gardens attendance is up 10%
- Zoo attendance down 17% - we assume due to construction fatigue.
 - There has been a spike since October 2023, increased attendance in March '23 due to Australia.
 - Lots of progress coming, including Heritage Farm which will boost guest experience, estimated late May 2024/early June 2024 opening.
- River of Lights (ROL) had a record-breaking year
 - 8 sold out nights out of 34
 - 1,738 visits to Santa
 - \$132,000 in sponsorships
 - 135,160 in attendance

A. Board Chair Announcements

a. Discussed to notify and also emphasize that board elections will be taking place next meeting, **Tuesday 4/2/2024**. Ensure there is board member attendance. This motion was moved by Colin Barnett to postpone, and seconded by Angela Alderete, all voted in favor.

B. Board Announcements - none

C. Project Updates (BioPark staff)

- Working with architects and design teams for Mexican Grey Wolf expansion.
- Request for proposals for SHARC (Science Health Aquatic Research Center) to get architects.
- Australia in phase 1, wrapping up Lorikeets and Blue Penguins.
- Final design for Mediterranean Garden expansion at the end of this month.
- Staff expansion
 - 33 full time positions in 4 years.

- Aiming for 8 more jobs in FY25 (July 2024)
- Animal Updates
 - Chimp netting has been completed.
 - Ocelot netting has been completed as well, along with the arrival of a new Ocelot.
- HR Update
 - Matthew Peterson promoted to new BioPark Associate Director.

VIII. New Business

A. Elections set for next board meeting, 4/2/2024.

IX. Next Regular Meeting – Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024

X. Adjourn - motioned by Angela Alderete, seconded by Colin Barnett. All in favor.