



**City of Albuquerque  
Department of Arts and Culture**

**ABQ BioPark Advisory Group  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, July 9, 2024 4:00 - 5:30 pm**

**ABQ BioPark Zoo – Zoo Library**

**Members Present:**

Colin Barnett

Mike Guier

Rachel Hawkins

Fred Whiteman – Jennings

Kristina Chong

**Staff Present:**

Brandon Gibson

Matthew Peterson

Marina Tafoya

**Public Present:**

Jeremiah Gwin

I. Call to Order

- a. Meeting called to order by Fred Whiteman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rachel Hawkins.

II. Approval of Agenda

- a. Colin Barnett moved to approved Agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Guier.

III. Approval of the Minutes from April, 2024 meeting

- a. Colin Barnett moved to approved Minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fred Whiteman.

IV. Public Comment – (made by Jeremiah Gwin)

- a. Thank you to the BioPark staff for adjustments made to BP website. Would like to have more public participation on the GRT fund and encourages the board to support public input on projects going forward.

V. Discussions and Presentations

- A. Board initiatives going forward to dissolve subcommittees to encourage participation as 1 unified group.
- B. The Board would like to feel more involved as an active group. New tasks will include community outreach and recruiting more members to be active participants on the Advisory Board. Also reviewing the BioPark website, and interpretive signage on grounds. Attend HOA meetings to promote guest numbers at the BioPark.
- C. Colin Barnett asks “What can the board do to help support the BioPark without adding to ongoing to-do list?” Brandon Gibson answers that the board can take on community outreach and development with BioPark website. The Board’s role will be getting people to meetings and act as a liaison between the public and BioPark so input can be heard.

VI. Old Business

- A. Subcommittee Wrap-up
  - a. Subcommittees indefinitely paused.
  - b. The Annual Report to be completed by Board.

VII. Announcements/Staff Updates

- A. Board Chair Announcements:
  - None
- B. New Board Members:
  - None
- C. Director Updates:
  - Aquarium Coral Tank estimated opening July 2024.
  - Australia phase 1 opening on 7/30/2024 at 10:00AM.
  - Botanic Garden Pavilion Stage to be completed in Sept 2024.
  - Heritage Farm set to open Sept/Oct 2024.
  - Andean Bear habitat to be completed in Sept 2024.
  - “In Design”: SHARC, Catwalk, Children’s Fantasy Garden.
  - City Council funded additional Vet position. Added a position for the Heritage Farm.

Funding was cut for Asia, which raised a lot of community concerns. The communities voice and concerns were heard by Mayor’s Office.

- EEHV Lab has been completed and all supplies are in. There will be a part – time Vet that will be employed by the NMBPS.

#### D. Strategic Plan Updates: 4 Pillar Groups

- a. Our Impacts
  - a. Draft of a Strategic Conservation Framework
  - b. Revamp on the Conservation Committee
  - c. In discussion around a facility wide Sustainability Plan
  - d. Exploring options for on-site stream waster initiatives
- b. Our Plants & Animals
  - a. Development of metrics to be included in the ABQ BioPark Institutional Collection Plan (ICP)
- c. Our People
  - a. Formation of the Staff Appreciation Committee
  - b. Revamp of Length of Service Awards selection and process
- d. Our Communities
  - a. BioPark Connections Program and “Guest Engagement Moments” (GEM’s)
  - b. Asia interpretive signs in Spanish
  - c. Autism Certification (IBCCES) in progress
  - d. Canopy data analysis

#### E. Visitor Demographics – current info

- a. Zoo attendance is up 4.4% from FY23
- b. Aquarium/Botanic Garden is up 2.6% from FY23
- c. Average increase of 1.4% from FY23

#### VIII. New Business

- A. Annual report and public outreach

#### IX. Next Regular Meeting – Tuesday, October 1, 2024

- X. Adjourn – Mike Guier motion to adjourn, Colin Barnett seconded.