



City of Albuquerque  
Department of Arts  
and Culture

**ABQ BioPark  
Advisory Group  
Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, April 1, 2025 4:00 - 5:30 pm**

**ABQ BioPark Zoo – Zoo Library**

**Members Present**

Colin Barnett

Fred Whiteman-Jennings

Dr. Kristina Chongsirirwatana

Rachel Hawkins

Mike Guier

**BioPark Staff Present**

Brandon Gibson

Lynn Tupa

Marina Tafoya

- I. Call to order – Meeting called to order by Fred Whiteman-Jennings
- II. Approval of agenda – Moved to approve by Colin Barnett, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Guier
- III. Approval of minutes from January meeting – Moved to approve by Fred Whiteman-Jennings, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rachel Hawkins.
- IV. Public comment - None
- V. Discussions and presentations - None
- VI. Old business
  - A. City council botanic garden aquarium tour plan - April 29. Colin Barnett assigned to contact City Council to send invitations. The purpose for the visit will be explained in the invites.
  - B. Neighborhood association meetings



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- List of neighborhood associations: <https://www.cabq.gov/office-of-neighborhood-coordination/neighborhood-websites>

- Maps for neighborhood associations are under some councilor websites: <https://www.cabq.gov/council/find-your-councilor> - The purpose of attending Neighborhood Association meetings is to remind the public what a great place the ABQ BioPark is, and encourage more community members to attend. Public advocacy is a key role in the operations of the facilities. Also want to mention the vacant seats on the Board to recruit new members.

**VII. Staff updates**

- The Board was given a sneak peek of an upcoming GRT project that is planned to be announced to the public in May 2025.
  - When will the Catwalk be completed? Work begins on April 7, 2025, public side will begin construction in the fall season.
  - Breaking ground on SHARC in May 2025.
  - There are currently 17 GRT projects underway.
  - Lebanese Garden scheduled to open in August 2025.
  - Who reports to Brandon Gibson on projects? The GRT team.
- A. City budget process
- a. There are currently less than 5 BioPark vacancies.
  - b. New Entomology Curator named Alexandra Miller.
  - c. Is the current Federal situation affecting the BioPark? The BioPark is not dependent on Federal funds, the Aquatic Conservation Facility (ACF) is funded locally. There has been a slight step back from NM Game & Fish for wild wolf treatment, BioPark Veterinarians are stepping in to assist. There has been a lot of support of the community which we like to support in order to keep the BioPark's mission protected.

**VIII. New business - None**

**IX. Next meeting date – Tuesday July 8, 2025**

**X. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn by Rachel Hawkins, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Colin Barnett. All in favor.**



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