



City of Albuquerque
Department of Arts
and Culture

**ABQ BioPark
Advisory Group
MEETING
MINUTES**

Tuesday, January 7, 2025 4:00 - 5:30 pm

ABQ BioPark Zoo – Zoo Library

Members Present:

Dr. Kristina Chongsirirwatana

Mike Guier

Fred Whiteman – Jennings

Rachel Hawkins

Colin Barnett

Staff Present:

Brandon Gibson

Matthew Peterson

Lynn Tupa

Marina Tafoya

- I. Call to Order – Motion made to commence meeting by Colin Barnett.
- II. Approval of Agenda – Motioned by Colin to approve, denied by Mike Guier.
Mike suggested we add the Review of the 2024 Annual Report to the agenda.
Board unanimously agreed, reviewing Annual Report was moved to section
V. Agenda has been approved with adjustments.



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- III. Approval of Minutes from October Meeting – Motion to approve by Rachel Hawkins, seconded by Mike Guier.
- IV. Public Comment – None
- V. Review of 2024 Annual Report
 - a. Began by noting typo changes.
 - b. Board has unanimously decided to keep the Annual Report as simple as possible, and it will also be posted on the Advisory Board portion, of the CABQ BioPark website.
 - c. Board discussed other members that have been absent to multiple meetings, decided that president and vice president, Fred Whiteman – Jennings and Colin Barnett, will reach out to those members.
 - d. Colin Barnett called for a vote to approve 2024 Annual Report – unanimous vote of yes.
- VI. Old Business
 - a. City Council tour zoo report



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- i. Was successful. 2 Councilors were present: Brook Bassan (District 4), and Daniel Lewis (District 5).
- b. City Council Botanic Garden/Aquarium Tour – rescheduled to April 29, 2025 at 2:00pm – 3:30pm.

VII. Announcements/Staff Updates

- a. ABQ BioPark Year in Review
 - i. Staffing Updates – Brandon Gibson named as the new BioPark Director in April. Lynn Tupa promoted from Zoo Manager to Associate Director.
 - ii. ABQ BioPark officially became the only Autism Certified Center in Albuquerque.
 - iii. Animal Births/Notable Birthdays
 - 1. Birth of Western Lowland Gorilla, Gila, in June 2024.
 - 2. American Flamingo hatched in June 2024.
 - 3. Birth of Ocelot kitten, Frida, in July 2024.



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4. Moe, the Hippo, celebrated his **51st birthday**, far exceeding the median life expectancy of under 37 years.
 5. Alice, the Asian Elephant celebrated her **50th birthday**, surpassing the median life expectancy of just under 48 years.
 6. Bulan, an orangutan celebrated his 2nd birthday.
- iv. Conservation Wins – the Aquatic Conservation Facility (ACF) released **50,000 tagged** Rio Grande Silvery Minnows.
- v. Botanic Garden Accomplishments
1. Joining as a participating institution with the Center for Plant Conservation. The ABQ BioPark’s seed bank currently holds **19 species** of rare plants from New Mexico.
 2. Collection of seeds from *Lordsburg noino* and *Chihuahuan scurfpea*, two plants threatened by a renewable energy transmission line in southwest New Mexico.



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3. ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden was nominated for USA Today's Top 10 Reader's Choice "Best Botanical Garden" Category, and was **ranked #10** out of 20 Botanic Gardens.

b. Acquisitions/Births

- i. Cape Vulture
- ii. Little penguins (2)
- iii. Socorro Dove (2)
- iv. Black Handed Spider Monkey – Medical issue from Clovis Zoo
- v. Cuttlefish (10)
- vi. Grand Cayman Blue Iguana
- vii. Laughing Kookaburra
- viii. Mexican Wolves (2) – medical assessment on 2 pups from Sevilleta
- ix. Minnow – wild caught (10)
- x. Mosquitofish – wild caught (5)



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- xi. Fathead minnow – wild caught (5)
- xii. Red shiner – wild caught (5)
- xiii. White Sucker – wild caught (5)
- xiv. Silvery minnow (100) captive born
- xv. Gaboon Viper
- xvi. White-lipped Pit viper (2)
- xvii. Western Grey Kangaroo
- xviii. Tarantula Hawk (3)
- xix. Sunburst Diving Beetle (19)
- xx. Giant Water Bug (15)

VIII. New Business

a. Neighborhood Association Meetings

- i. Neighborhood Association meetings are listed on City websites.
- ii. Discussion within Board on what information they want to share at these meetings. Decided on shedding light to SNAP Benefits and



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ticket pricing, and use as an opportunity to recruit new members for the Board vacancies. Fred Whiteman – Jennings will distribute list of Neighborhood Associations to board members.

- iii. Discussion to have Board members be present in City Council public budget meetings to voice support for the ABQ BioPark.

IX. Next Regular Meeting – Tuesday, April 1, 2025.

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