



City of Albuquerque  
Department of Arts and Culture

**ABQ BioPark Advisory Group  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, September 7, 2021 4:00 - 5:30 pm  
Via Zoom**

**MEMBERS present**

Adam Silverman, Chair, Dist. 2  
Colin Barnett, Dist. 8  
Christina Walker, Dist. 6  
Kristina Chongsirirwatana, Member-at-large  
Bruce Hinrichs, NM BioPark Society  
Jeanette Baca, Dist. 3  
Angela Alderete, Dist. 5

Karl Horak, Member-at-large  
Jon Sanchez, Dist. 1  
Jeremiah Gwin, Dist. 7  
Timothy McBride, Dist. 9  
Laura Harris, Member-at-large

**STAFF present**

Stephanie Stowell, BioPark Director  
Bob Lee, BioPark Associate Director  
Brandon Gibson, Deputy Director, CABQ Dept of Arts & Culture  
Jourdan Vallejos, BioPark Office Manager  
Julie Miller Rugg, Director of NMBPS

**Recorded at 4:02 PM**

- I. **Call to Order** – Chair, A. Silverman called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM
- II. **Approval of Agenda** – There were no comments, questions or additions.  
B. Hinrichs moved to accept. T. McBride seconded. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of the Minutes from July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting** – Title of document to be adjusted as well as Karl Horak's name.  
A. Silverman moved to accept. B. Hinrichs seconded.

IV. **Public Comment** – no public comment.

V. **Introductions and Reports**

A. New Mexico BioPark Society – Julie Miller Rugg, Executive Director

Welcome Julie Miller Rugg. Discussed what the NMBPS does. Their mission is that they “are dedicated to making the exceptional possible for the ABQ BioPark by supporting conservation, education and enhanced quality of life, for both animals and the community”. Money is raised through membership, programs, fundraisers and special activities. There are over 89,000 members. Fundraisers include River of Lights and Run for the Zoo. There is about \$1 million donated annually from these events. Programs include activities such as the carousel, duck feeders, fountains, and pedal boats. Special activities include behind the scenes tours and Art Gone Wild. Art Gone Wild is commissioned art by BioPark residents (primates or elephants). We sell them and then the funds go back to those departments. Donations, sponsorships, and grants also contribute to our mission.

- Editor of BioSpace is Kelly Hunter, for 13 year

B. S. Stowell - Conservation efforts made possible by the NMBPS.

- Red list species survival hub here in ABQ
- One of only two in North America
- Seen as leaders internationally for our contribution and research.
- Our current staff choose project they want to fund, local or international. Strategic plan will help guide these efforts in the future. We fund projects – out in the field or here at home. Carousel funds as well as donations.
- IUCN – would love them to come speak to us. They rate species as to whether they are endangered. How can we get it off the endangered list? They assess and plan. Silvery minnow is an example. Plans to get deeper and do more conservation work.

- 50% of membership goes to the society to keep running. All the rest go back 100% to facility. Expenses are available.

#### C. River of lights

- Planning on timed ticketing again
- One way path
- 1600 people an hour
- Will need to discuss more on Covid related issue
- Julie to be a regular guest for short update

### VI. **Hippo baby naming discussion.**

A. Toyota sponsoring hippo exhibit – naming contest. Community submission. Zia was a possible name. Removed after discussion with Julie and Zia Pueblo.

- L. Harris had some technical questions. The BioPark responded quickly and did the right thing. She received several phone calls from community members. Went to check city website and it was removed. Was expecting a phone call from press, didn't come. Community wanted to support the zoo wasn't sure how to help them. What is our relationship with the society?
- J. Rugg – as soon as we went to make changes, we can send an email to the board. Will work on that in the future. Appreciate you reaching out. Sensitivity training is a great idea. Great learning opportunity.
- Painful comments noticed on social media. Things of this nature take individual effort.
- Conversations that came from it were great; regarding human culture and living collections and our commitment of telling stories. Discussion on cultural sensitivities.

### VII. **Reviews & Approvals**

A. Bylaws Subcommittee – presentation/discussion of draft Advisory Board Bylaws

- Input or suggestions?
- Bruce Hinrichs – ABQ BioPark? Or NM BioPark? President / vice president is chair and vice chair.
- Does it need to match the ordinance? ABQ BioPark or biological? Language revisions? Should send to council for updated in language?
- How to send comments for the document? Comments embedded or track changes.

Subcommittee will review comments and present revised draft at next meeting.

### **VIII. Announcements/Ongoing Project Updates**

A. Board Chair Announcements – balloon fiesta invitation

B. Board Announcements

- Annual Report – we prepare one to the mayor’s office. Karl found a template. We can circulate it around. We put that together as a board. Adam will take a deep drive. Accomplishments. Submit to Adam and Jeremiah via email. Which year is this report we are working on? Keep moving and submit for 2021. Adam will get more information.

C. Project Updates

a. Shigella Infection Updates

- i. Email update given at beginning. Touch base since then so you can answer any questions. 4 weeks now. Great apes then to siamangs. Lost two siamangs. One gorilla. Devastating four weeks. The team has endured and worked so hard. Vet techs, vets, primate keepers. Also all staff. SSA has provided assistance via chefs and diet prep. Maintenance has helped get them all the PPE they need. Hand raising 2.5 month old baby siamang. NAMES. Lost Johor a week ago. Baby is okay. needs care 24/7. Held 24/7. Feeding tube won’t take bottle. Vet techs from animal welfare helping with overnight feedings. One Albuquerque. Going to raise Rue until he is old enough to go to El Paso zoo with eerie, the brother to join their group. Focusing

on getting Rue stronger. Could be 6 months. Gorillas and orangutans – most gorillas and all oranges back to normal. Some chimps are symptomatic. Watching them (2). Day by day – more samples and cultures to monitor and see infection subside. Could be weeks. Taking all precautions in all primate areas.

- ii. Do we know where it came from? Couple theories. Food or community unlikely. Asymptomatic keeper or animal. Could be guest and food thrown contaminated.
- iii. Baby hippo! So cute! She's coming out quite a bit now. Runs a lot!

b. GRT & Master Plan

- i. Tram, Heritage Farm (Brandon) – picture this morning of our trams. UK company to ship to BioPark. Playground structure area will be main loading station. Playground will be moved to Barelas Community Center park. BioPark doesn't have a great place for it. Mostly a place holder. Tingley, AQ, BUGarium and garden stops.
- ii. Asia – going well. Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> opening date. Ribbon cutting all will be invited. Phase 1 elephant observation deck. Great view! Will keep everyone updated. Rest of exhibit on track and on budget.
- iii. Children's Fantasy Garden - renovations rehabilitations etc. needed upgrades. ADA concerns. AQ quarantine facility needed.
- iv. Australia – received 2 bids last week. Proposals will be scored. Will work to get a contract with awarded. Rising costs for both projects – materials to source and find. We have had to reengineer some amenities and structure. Change orders and mark ups and delays.
- v. These will help determine the other GRT projects in terms of finals costs.

- vi. Americas – timeline for bid? Dependent on Australia bid.  
Could push other plans.
- vii. Master plan leadership group to meet tomorrow 9/7/21. Will help answer these questions. Some issues from AZA will move up the priority list. Modifications may have to happen for welfare of collections. Next meeting will have more answers once Australia is final.  
Jeremiah – opportunities to reduce cost for heritage. is site design able to find cost reduction?  
Brandon – definitely possible. All living documents.  
Bruce – Siamangs and oranges. More plans to mix other with orangutans? Since siamangs are being relocated  
Will work with SSP about looking for future co-habitats.
- c. AZA inspection/hearing
  - i. Will know more at next meeting. Favorable inspection.  
Response report to board and hearing to come. Who will attend hearing...
  - ii. Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> report due. Will know by November 4<sup>th</sup>!
- d. Strategic Planning
  - i. Moving forward with next steps with Zoo Advisors.
  - ii. Help guide with staff and stake holders.
  - iii. You are all stake holders!
  - iv. Will be here next week.
  - v. If you are available and interested on the 15<sup>th</sup> 9-1. To chat if you're interested. Zoom interviews outside of this event available as well.
  - vi. Jourdan to send email with availabilities with Kathayoon.
  - vii. By end of year will have a plan in hand. Who are we and what do we have possible. What is our why? Our impacts? Local conservation – how to better connect to community. Culture work to be done for staff and volunteers.

## IX. New Business

A. Future Subcommittees –

Jeremiah – ways for members to be directly be involved outside of attending quarterly meeting. Particular for GRT projects possible idea. Small sub committees that can look at four parts of the park. Used to be positions for each part of the park. Feedback to BioPark specific to each area. Policies – feedback to mayor and council. Subcommittee for that? Maybe set time in December meeting to discuss. Add to agenda.

Tim – sounds great and could learn a lot about what the board is responsible for.

Karl – quorum is 7. If on subcommittee how does that affect ability to meet with people? In a practical sense. How do meetings happen?

Colin – three people could meet and email without public announcement.,

Stephanie – if small enough don't need to be noticed. Will need to look into this more.

Jon – in public art groups were small. 3-5.

Jeremiah – could get brief update after GRT meeting?

Stephanie – yes.

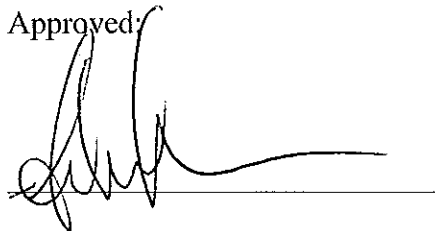
X. Next Regular Meeting – December 7, 2021 4 - 5:30pm

D. Barnett motion to adjourn

Kristina Chongsirirwatana, seconded.

E. Adjourn

Approved:



Adam Silverman, Chair

12/10/21

Date

