



**SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS  
MEETING OF THE BIOLOGICAL PARK ADVISORY BOARD**

Monday, March 11, 2019  
903 Tenth Street, SW  
Zoo Library

**Members Present:** Christine Glidden, Chair  
Tiana Baca, Tanesia R Hale-Jones, Karl Horak, Adam Silverman and Christine Weidmann-Wilson.

**Members Absent:** Three unconfirmed seats.

**Staff Present:** Baird Fleming (BioPark Administrator), Rochelle Shaw (Recording Secretary).

**Guests:** None.

**Ms. Glidden called the meeting to order.**

**Ms. Glidden established the presences of a Quorum**

**Approval of the March 11, 2019**

Meeting Agenda was amended to reflect a change added to New Business – Board Responsibilities.

**Approval of the Minutes, January 14, 2019 Meeting.**

The meeting minutes will be reviewed by the members.

Baird Fleming began the by discussing the BioPark budget and how the budget works for the BioPark. He gave an explanation of funds that are allocated and the area they are allocated to. There was discussion on Restricted Funds, GRT, CIP, General Fund, Special Revenue and funds from the New Mexico BioPark Society. One of the things we are always trying to do is protect the GRT. New administrations can decide that the GRT would be more useful in some other area. We are not experiencing that presently but it could happen in the future.

Adam asked about the New Mexico BioPark Society budget and how that works. Baird explained that that New Mexico BioPark Society money is allocated differently and that Society Board approval is required on expenses.

Baird explained how (AZA) Association of Zoos and Aquariums works. There is the living collection, Veterinary, Education, Research, Conservation and the Governing Authority (this is the City), staff, and support. There are only six standards that pertain to the governing authority one they have to be supportive of the institution being a member of AZA and allow is to follow their standards and policies. The second one is that they have to be sufficiently support of the institution. The third is that the governing authority, meaning the City, must recognize that the Director has control over programs and animals. Only the Director can mandate what goes on at the BioPark. AZA has oversight of the institution, they can set the rules and regulations.

The Mayor and his executive staff visited the BioPark on Saturday.

Annual report was discussed and decided that the board would complete an annual report at the end of the year. They would begin to work on it a few months before the end of the year.

Ms. Glidden suggested that the Board should think about becoming New Mexico BioPark Society members, as a sign of support.

Mr. Horak recently gave Ms. Glidden a tour of the gardens. Mr. Silverman visited the zoo with his children and commented on the user experience. As part of the user experience he asked if there can be something else besides the little sign that states animal off exhibit.

Mr. Horak stated that the Volunteer Fair and Zoo docent sign up is scheduled for August.

### **Upcoming projects**

The Farm, Australia, Conservation program with the ICUN. ICUN has set us apart globally. In less than eight months the two ICUN staff members have gone to Singapore and most recently, they have been asked to go to Malaysia and Chile. One is the Latin America Zoos and Aquariums. The BioPark is getting recognition for our conservation programs.

We are also working on a Welfare Program for special needs Animals. We currently have an eight month old snow leopard cub named Dash. He has limited vision and was hand raised. Keepers work with him daily. Staff are making sure that we train him and use the welfare specialist. In the wild, special needs animals do not usually survive.

Baird stated that Hakim Bellamy (Deputy Director) is working on the ADA component for the BioPark. All will be addressed, signage, doors, audio and visual.

### **Status Report**

Penguin project is close to completion. There have been lots of issues with life support but we have discovered the one big problem so hopefully we will open in the next month.

Birds of Prey – should be finishing off in the next two months. We are hoping to open early summer.

BioPark concerts - Baird said that there would be Zoo Music and Summer Night concerts.

Ms. Glidden asked if there were any questions or concerns.

Baird reminded the Board that if they wanted a tour just to email him or Rochelle and it would set it up for them.

There being no further business, the Chair requested a motion for adjournment; a motion was made by Mr. Horak, seconded by Mr. Silverman and carried unanimously.

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.**