



City of Albuquerque  
Department of Arts and Culture

**ABQ BioPark Advisory Group  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, July 13th, 2021 4:00 - 5:00 pm**

**ABQ BioPark Zoo Library and Zoom Video Conference**

**MEMBERS present**

Adam Silverman, Chair, Dist. 2	Karl Horak, Member-at-large
Colin Barnett, Dist. 8	Jon Sanchez, Dist. 1
Christina Walker, Dist. 6	Jeremiah Gwin, Dist. 7
Kristina Chongsirirwatana, Member-at-large	Timothy McBride, Dist. 9
Bruce Hinrichs, NM BioPark Society	Laura Harris, Dist. 2
Jeanette Baca (zoom), Dist. 3	Alexis Mena (zoom), Dist. 4
Angela Alderete (zoom), Dist. 5	

**STAFF present**

Stephanie Stowell, BioPark Director  
Bob Lee, BioPark Associate Director  
Shelle Sanchez, Director, CABQ Dept of Arts & Culture  
Brandon Gibson, Deputy Director, CABQ Dept of Arts & Culture  
Jourdan Vallejos, BioPark Office Manager

- 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. A. Silverman moved to accept. C. Barnett seconded. Motion passed.

III. **Approval of the Minutes from March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 meeting:** A. Silverman moved to accept the March 2, 2021 minutes and K. Chongsirirwatana seconded. Motion approved.

IV. **Public Comment** – none

V. **Introductions and Reports** - Welcome to the group!

- Member introductions
- Intro to BioPark employees (Associate Director – B. Lee)
- No reports

VI. **Reviews & Approvals**

- Quick review of duties of Board Chair
  - o Annual report is required as well as leading meetings.
  - o One year term – every January Chair/Vice Chair should be elected

A. Board Chair Nominations / Vote  
(Open nominations – open call )  
J. Gwin nominates A. Silverman

K. Horak motioned to close nomination  
J. Gwin seconded the motion

**All in favor for A. Silverman to serve as Board Chair.**

B. Vice Chair Nominations / Vote  
(Open nominations – open call )  
A. Silverman to nominate J. Gwin

Motioned to close nomination  
B. Hinrichs to seconded the motion

**All in favor for J. Gwin to serve as Vice Chair.**

C. Bylaws Sub-Committee / Vote  
Sub-Committee does not need to be noticed and can meet to discuss  
(Open nominations – open call )  
2-3 maximum members for committee

C. Barnett, T. McBride, C. Walker  
**T. McBride accepted as Chair of Bylaws Sub Committee**

- This subcommittee will establish better tone and metric for meeting.
- S. Stowell and J. Vallejos to send examples for by laws. This subcommittee and give us feedback on how long they need to put something together.

## VII. Announcements/Ongoing Project Updates

### A. Board Chair Announcements –

1. The Mayor’s office has updated guidance regarding Open Meetings and how Public Boards, Commissions and Committees conduct meetings. The updated guidance is in the Mayor’s 20<sup>th</sup> Declaration of Local Emergency Due to Novel Coronavirus COVID-19. Stephanie has a few copies of the updated memos from the Mayor’s office if anyone would like one. The key takeaways are:
  - Unlike previous Declarations, the Twentieth Declaration does NOT include the provision which allowed Boards & Commissions to meet virtually.
    - The City’s Boards & Commission’s Ordinance is now back to being in full effect. This means:
      - a. Boards, Commissions, and Committees are required to hold their meetings “insofar as possible,” “at a city-owned facility.”
      - b. Appointed members of a public board, commission, or committee may only attend remotely when it is “difficult or impossible.”
      - c. A quorum of the board must be physically present at meetings.
  - We continue to encourage boards, commissions, and committee to provide an option for remote attendance by members of the public, whenever possible.
  - Please save the date for a morning balloon launch at the Balloon Fiesta on Tuesday 10/5. More details to come. For now Dr. Sanchez, Director the Department of Arts & Culture, would like to invite you and a plus-one to join the board and commission members of other Dept of Arts & Culture facilities and programs on the 5th. We’ll have a private viewing area in the Balloon Museum, access to the field and parking passes.

### B. Board Announcements

- Nothing to share

### C. Project Updates

- GRT & Master Plan
  - Asia exhibit picture update
  - Lots of foundation work / infrastructure
  - Phase 1 – elephant overlook to open in September
  - Elephant team working with construction team to maintain protocol and knowing the staff schedule

- Side by side participation to ensure plans are followed (architects, contractors, city planners, inspectors, OSHA, SWIP)
- Will keep posted about ribbon cutting for overlook
- Americas exhibit – next big GRT project. The first for this group from inception. A good opportunity for this group to be involved.
- Architectural bid for Americas to come
- RFP for architect for Australia project to be in the next week.
- 60 million worth of active GRT projects
- Plus small projects
- BPMPLG – meeting in the next four weeks. Discussing budgets and timelines. Will bring that to the group when possible.
- AZA inspection
  - Report deadline due from BioPark in September. Hearing in October.
- Strategic Planning
  - Zoo Advisors is the firm
  - Second go around (first with the society)
  - Stakeholder engagement (met with subset of this group)
  - Recently did a staff survey, 150 staff participated
  - Put together list of trends
  - Data from surveys and new revised list will be discussed soon to move into next phases of the strategic plan
  - This group will be brought in soon
  - NMBPS is funding this
  - Update from the NMBPS will be a standing meeting agenda item, starting next meeting

#### VIII. New Business

- K. Horak– received email from county about Camino Real. Public input on Thursday night. Central bridge and Barelás and Valle del Oro. The BioPark is a good place to intersect community outreach and education. Are we reaching out to that group to see the details of this project?
- Dr. Sanchez - County led effort. The most intersection is with the history. B. Gibson has been working Councilor Sanchez – Open Space MRGCD - \$25,000 group and effort to celebrate the history of the Rio Grande. Do plan to expand message.
- A. Silverman to B. Gibson – E-bikes? Are they coming back? That is Parks and Recreation topic.
- Annual report for next meeting
- K. Horak to dig out report from 2019
- J. Gwin – suggests next meeting to be longer. For more discussion. GRT topics to be discussed. For the interest of the board not to feel crunched for time.
- Next meeting will be 90 minutes.

#### IX. Next Regular Meeting – September 7th - 4:00 – 5:30 pm

- X. Adjourn  
B. Hinrichs moved to adjourn.  
K. Horak seconded the motion.  
5:03 PM

Approved:   
Adam Silverman, Chair

September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Date