



City of Albuquerque
Department of Arts and Culture

**ABQ BioPark Advisory Group
MEETING minutes**

Tuesday, April 4, 2023 4:00 - 5:30 pm

ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden – High Desert Rose Garden Atrium

Members:

Kristina Chongsirirwatana
Timothy McBride
Rachel Hawkins
Colin Barnett
Bruce Hinrichs
Jon Sanchez
Jeremiah Gwin
Angela Alderete

Staff:

Stephanie Stowell
Matthew Peterson
Daniel Manzano
Jourdan Vallejos

- I. Call to Order: 4:06 PM**
- II. Approval of Agenda**
 - A. Motion to approve from B. Hinrichs; J. Sanchez seconds
- III. Approval of the Minutes from February 7, 2023 meeting**
 - A. Motion to approve from B. Hinrichs; J. Sanchez seconds
- IV. Public Comment**
 - A. Environmental educators of NM – asking for lesson plans to give to teachers across the state
 - B. Stephanie listed as a contact for BioPark – A. Alderete to send email out to Stephanie

C. J. Gwin – questions regarding Heritage Farm and Nature’s notebook and cottonwood gallery entrance

A. Matthew Peterson – continued involvement of volunteers of Nature’s Notebook in the construction process. Entrance won’t be affected by realignment.

V. Discussions and Presentations

A. Daniel Manzano – Deputy Director of Public Affairs, Mayor’s Office

A. Summary of his role in the City of Albuquerque (public affairs, boards and commissions, community bridge between community and Mayor’s office)

B. This board in particular: three at large positions (Mayor picks a person and council approves to appoint or not), council districts positions – need two applications from a district before they can be sent to City Councilor; 60 days to choose to send to Mayor for approval.

QUESTIONS FOR DANIEL

C. T. McBride – reappointment; is there a shorter process?

1. A new application is needed. To provide confirmation and see if redistricting has changed from previous appointment. Provides checks and balances. Ordinance says Councilor can reappointment you or they can decide not to.

D. C. Barnett – is reappointment another term? Was contacted by his Councilor if he would like to return by email. Process was easy.

1. Yes. Three year term. If you do it twice then you need to take a hiatus and then can apply fresh. Some councilors make it that easy. But reapplying is a good idea.

E. R. Hawkins - How soon should someone start reappointment process?

1. Process takes one month from when Councilor makes recommendation. Should want council vote before term ends.

F. J. Sanchez – How long is a hiatus?

1. No specific time but typically when another expires, so could be three years. You can also apply for another board in the meantime.

G.J. Gwin – the reorganization of this board some were given a one year term. What is a quorum officially? Is it the member’s responsibility to stay until position is filled?

1. Generally three year terms.
2. Quorum is number of filled positions.
3. No not required – but is optional.

H. B. Hinrichs – Do councilor’s recruit?

1. They should!

I. S. Stowell - We can put on BioPark’s social media

J. We have vacancies in District 2, 6, 7

K. S. Stowell - By laws changes need to go through council?

1. Subcommittee will report to City Council and Mayor via memo or letter. Eric Griego on policy department. Currently with Director Sanchez.

L. A. Alderete – is there an age limit?

1. No – not in the ordinance.

M. J. Vallejos – do we need to offer zoom? Might need more discussion. T. McBride will contact members about future meetings.

1. Ordinance passed for board flexibility. Board can decide

B. Tim Lyons – Interim Director of Conservation – New Mexico BioPark Society

A. Had to cancel last minute

C. Matthew Peterson – Botanic Garden Manager

A. Most beautiful time to be in the garden!

B. Last week had Japanese Garden technicians (Toru Tanaka designer) on site for four days (Thank you NMBPS). Consultants who helped provide training; specific pruning techniques, master masons who helped place some rocks that are very symbolic of intention.

C. Our staff have a wide variety of expertise! Great diverse group to make one complete brain.

D. NMBPS has aided in the group visiting us about once a year for the last two years.

E. Botanic Garden is a part of associations that offer seminars and trainings.

F. Also local opportunities (water quality recently).

G. How to answer questions about water usage?

1. Irrigation techniques
2. We have a safe supply of water

3. Heritage Farm – we were affected by water rights. And follow water allocation.
4. Water collection strategies – green storm water collection practice in addition to rain barrels. Future plans for the Heritage Farm for water collection infrastructure.
5. Discussion on pond in cottonwood gallery – questions about sustainability and ability to reintroduce it as an attraction.
6. Tree survey update – tree risk assessment. Hired a consultant (Tree Plotter) to inventory 700 trees as well as assessment. Able to determine high risk and potential removal. Great resource for the facility. Staff is getting used to the system to track tree maintenance and collect institutional information. Larger effort with Parks and Recreation.

VI. Current/Old Business

A. Subcommittee Reports and Discussion

- a. Bylaws Subcommittee – no updates
- b. Annual Report Subcommittee – no updates
 - o Final Draft annual report sent to the group for final review.
- c. Public Outreach Subcommittee – no updates
- d. Guest Experience Subcommittee – no updates
- e. Master Plan/GRT Subcommittee – no updates

VII. Announcements/Staff Updates

A. Board Chair Announcements – none

B. Board Announcements – none

C. Project Updates (BioPark staff) – Stephanie Stowell

- a. Lengthy staff report. Lots of professional development and training. Thank you to the NMBPS for providing travel budget. Were able to bring consultants to the BioPark as well. Reminder that these reports are not for public consumption.
- b. Associate Director Position closes tomorrow. Looking forward to this process. Hope is they will be a life sciences person (plants, animals, conservation).

- c. Strategic Plan – going to get all four planning teams together because we see some overlapping work. Want to see how we can better align resources to move forward. Our Communities Pillar is going to have some initial meetings with Canopy, April 10th & 19th. Hope to get together with subcommittees to share information. Plants and Animals Pillar working on institutional collection planning tool for all living collections. Sharon Joseph consultant to help with the process. Impacts Pillar just finalized a strategic framework for our conservation work at the BioPark. Hope to bring all updates to the June meeting!
- d. Master Plan – Just had a second meeting about general architecture update about potential website for public consumption. Can bring more info to any shared meeting.

- VIII. **New Business** – J. Gwin - public comment discussion about identifying topics ahead of time for public comment participation.
- IX. **Next Regular Meeting** – June 6, 2023 4:00 - 5:30pm; tentatively scheduled at BioPark Zoo – elephant overlook with hard-hat tour of Asia exhibit.
- X. **Adjourn** – 5:32 PM – J. Gwin motion to adjourn, A. Alderete seconds.

Approved:



6/18/2023

Timothy McBride, ABQ BioPark Advisory Chair

Date:

