



Fresno’s Chaffee Zoo Corporation
Board of Directors Meeting
 Minutes

Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 5:30 PM
 894 W. Belmont Avenue, Fresno, CA 93728

Board Member	01/19/2023	03/23/2023	06/27/2023	8/10/2023
Oliver Baines	A	X	A	X
Ed Gonzalez	X	X	X	X
Wilma Tom Hashimoto	X	X	A	X
Babatunde Ilori	X	X	X	X
Kyle Kirkland	X	X	X	X
Rion Morgenstern	X	X	X	X
Ross Parnagian	X	X	X	X
Emilia Reyes	X	X	A	X
Ethan Smith	X	X	X	X
Julie Vance	X	A	X	A

Board Advisors Present

- Mr. John Forrest Dohlin, Chief Executive Officer
- Mr. Doug Larsen – Legal Counsel
- Ms. Carlene Tinker – Docent President

Zoo Staff Present

- Ms. Nora Crow – Chief Financial Officer
- Mr. Sean den Bok – Chief of Education and Engagement
- Mr. Steven Gonzales-Warkentin – Chief of Staff
- Ms. Lyn Myers – Chief Operations Officer
- Dr. Audrey Siegrist – Senior Director of Veterinary Services
- Mr. Terry Skoda – Chief Advancement Officer

Item 01: Call the Meeting to Order and Roll Call

Mr. Kirkland called the meeting to order at 5:42 PM. Mr. Gonzales-Warkentin called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

Item 02: Public Comment

Mr. Kirkland asked if any members of the public wished to comment. Hearing none, he proceeded with the meeting agenda.



Item 03: Additions to the Agenda

Mr. Kirkland asked if any member of the Board had any business for consideration that came to their attention after the agenda was posted. With no items presented, Mr. Kirkland continued with the agenda as published.

Item 04: Approve Minutes

Mr. Kirkland called the group's attention to the draft minutes from the March 23, 2023 Board meeting and asked if any member had additions or revisions. With none offered, Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Parnagian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 05: Chair Report

Mr. Kirkland commented on the Finance Committee meeting that was held the previous week. He stated that the Zoo's new investment advisor, Fiducient Advisors, offered insightful comments on the economy and market conditions.

Item 06: CEO Report

Mr. Dohlin reported on the progress of the current projects in construction including funding for substantial change order requests vital to the project. He stated that Zoo was engaged in discussions with the relevant contractors and subcontractors about responsibility for and funding of the change orders and would report on their progress. He further stated that Zoo staff had recently met with LSA, the consultants hired to perform the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report needed prior to starting work on the new masterplan. Finally, Mr. Dohlin stated the Zoo was in exploratory discussions with other organizations to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the extinction of the California Grizzly Bear which will occur in 2024. He stated that Fresno Chaffee Zoo will be working with other California zoos to create awareness around the date.

Item 07: Approve Finance Committee Report

Mr. Morgenstern presented a summary of the year-to-date financials and an additional funding request for the renovation of the old tiger building to support tiger and siamang. He stated that both items were discussed in detail at the Finance Committee meeting the prior week, and the Committee recommended each for approval by the Board. After discussion, Mr. Baines made a motion to approve the Finance Committee Report and Dr. Gonzalez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 08: Approve sale of Belmont Lot to Golden Charter Academy

Mr. Dohlin then stated that the Zoo would like to sell the Zoo-owned property located at 705 W. Belmont, to Golden Charter Academy for the appraised cost of \$200,000. Mr. Kirkland stated that the lot was small with no projected future use by the Zoo. He added it was originally purchased to remove a derelict set of buildings across from the main entrance into Roeding Park. Mr. Smith stated that, in his opinion, the land could be worth more than the appraised value based on current market conditions, but he understood the proposed sell to the Zoo's educational partner, given their common interest in the proposed development of the parcel. After discussion, Mr. Baines made a motion to approve the sale of



705 W. Belmont to Golden Charter Academy for \$200,000, and Mr. Ilori seconded. Dr. Gonzales recused himself from the vote.

Item 09: Board Final Comments

Mr. Ilori stated that the Nomination Committee intended to meet on August 17, 2023 to initiate the process to recruit and vet candidates to fill the existing vacancy on the Board (resulting from Ms. Clark's resignation earlier in the year) and the vacancy anticipated when Dr. Gonzalez's final term is complete at the end of the year. He asked that any Board or staff member submit suggested candidates to the Committee as soon as possible.

With no further comments, Mr. Kirkland adjourned the meeting at 6:34 PM well ahead of the budgeted time to the surprise and delight of fellow Board members.