



Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Corporation  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Minutes*

November 10, 2021 5:30 PM  
Zoom.com Meeting ID 841 9990 2835  
Passcode 485301

**Directors Present**

- Mr. Oliver Baines, joined at 6:02 PM
- Mr. Ed Gonzalez
- Ms. Wilma Tom Hashimoto, joined at 6:10 PM
- Mr. Babatunde Ilori, joined at 5:37 PM
- Mr. Kyle Kirkland
- Mr. Rion Morgenstern
- Mr. Ross Parnagian
- Ms. Julie Vance

**Directors Absent**

- Ms. Emilia Reyes

**Advisors Present**

- Mr. Jon Forrest Dohlin, CEO
- Mr. Doug Larsen, Fishman, Larsen & Callister
- Ms. Patty McLane, Docent President

**Zoo Staff Present**

- Ms. Nora Crow
- Mr. Steven Gonzales-Warkentin
- Ms. Laura Martina
- Ms. Lyn Myers
- Mr. Terry Skoda
- Mr. Dean Watanabe

**Item 01: Call to Order**

Mr. Kirkland called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

**Item 02: Roll Call**

Mr. Gonzales-Warkentin called the roll and established that a quorum was present. The Board then proceeded with business.

**Item 03: Public Comment**



Mr. Kirkland asked if any members of the public wished to comment. Hearing no comments offered, he proceeded with the balance of the agenda.

**Item 04: Approval of September 9, 2021 Board Minutes**

Mr. Kirkland called the Directors' attention to the draft minutes from September 9, 2021 meeting of the Board of Directors and asked if any Director had additions or revisions. With none presented, Mr. Morgenstern made a motion to accept the minutes as drafted and Mr. Parnagian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Item 05: Chair Report**

Mr. Kirkland stated that to be considerate of everyone's time, the Board will be empowering the Committees to bring recommendations to the Board on items that they have discussed and reviewed and limit the presentation of items already reviewed in detail in committee. Detailed information on these items will still be found within the appendix of the Board packages.

**Item 06: Chief Executive Officer Report**

Mr. Dohlin reported that the design for the upgrade to the Sea Lion Cove Life Support Systems is under development and should be ready for review in the new year. He gave an update on the progress of the capital projects in construction. He stated that the designs for shade structures in Africa have been submitted to the City of Fresno for review.

**Item 07: Receive FM3 Presentation**

Mr. Richard Bernard from FM3 Research presented findings from the opinion research and strategy survey that had recently been completed. He stated that the survey, consisting of 1,042 interviews took place from August 19-26, 2021. He said that the Zoo's ratings among those interviewed remained strongly positive with nearly two-thirds indicating a very favorable view of the Zoo. He noted that frequent visitors to the Zoo showed stronger support, but those that have not visited the Zoo in the last five years maintained a favorable response to voting yes on the upcoming Measure Z renewal.

**Item 08: Approval of Finance Committee Items**

Mr. Morgenstern then recapped the discussion from the Finance Committee for the Board, including capital projects change orders for Kingdoms of Asia totaling \$18,165 and Zooplex totaling \$1,670.59 and the year-to-date financial report executive summary. He added that the Finance Committee has requested Zoo Staff research the purpose of the general fund, for discussion at a future meeting. He stated that the Finance Committee recommended payment of the change orders and approval of the financial report. Dr. Gonzalez made a motion to approve these items as presented and Ms. Vance seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Item 09: Approval of 2022 Budget**

Ms. Crow began by stating the 2022 budget was projected to show a deficit but would use surpluses from 2021 to resolve the shortfall. She said the Zoo is committed to providing employees a living wage and addressing deferred maintenance items with an increased repairs budget. Ms. Crow said that the



attendance projects and membership revenue growth are conservative in reaction to uncertainty still present due to Covid-19. She reported that the Zoo is also focused on addressing ongoing technology improvements and has increased their commitment to conservation by increasing the investment into various projects by five percent. Mr. Kirkland and Mr. Morgenstern voiced their support of the presented budget. After discussion, Mr. Morgenstern made a motion to accept the budget as presented on the recommendation from the Finance Committee, and Ms. Hashimoto seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Item 10: Receive Year End Appeals Letter / Giving Tuesdays Update**

Mr. Skota said that the letter presented was a draft year-end appeal statement that will be sent out to encourage the community to think of the Zoo as they plan year-end giving. He stated that the goal is to send the letter out to 100,000 individuals and post it to the Zoo's homepage. For Giving Tuesday, Mr. Skota said he would like to use monies raised through this campaign towards tickets for the community. Mr. Dohlin stated that efforts like these reinforce the Zoo's purpose and community reinvestment.

**Item 11: Receive FUSD Extended Learning Report**

Mr. Watanabe reported on the work the Zoo has done with Fresno Unified over the past year and a half. He said that FUSD has received money for future extended learning and would like to partner with the Zoo. He said the Zoo would be on school grounds throughout the Spring and Fall through afterschool programs and Saturday classes. The Zoo would also be hosting overnight sessions on Zoo premises along with camp programming.

**Item 12: Receive 2022 Board Calendar**

Mr. Gonzales-Warkentin reviewed the proposed 2022 Board Meeting calendar and asked the Board to send feedback on dates.

**Item 13: Old Business**

None presented.

**Item 14: New Business**

None presented.

**Item 15: Adjournment**

With no other business to discuss, Mr. Kirkland adjourned the meeting at 7:39 PM.