



Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Corporation
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes

Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 5:30 PM
894 W. Belmont Avenue, Fresno, CA 93728

Directors Present

Dr. Ed Gonzalez, Vice Chair
Ms. Wilma Tom Hashimoto
Mr. Babatunde Ilori
Mr. Kyle Kirkland, Chair
Mr. Rion Morgenstern, Treasurer
Mr. Ross Parnagian
Ms. Emilia Reyes
Ms. Julie Vance

Directors Absent

Mr. Oliver Baines
Mr. Ethan Smith

Advisors Present

Mr. Jon Forrest Dohlin, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Doug Larsen, legal counsel Fishman Larsen & Callister

Zoo Staff Present

Ms. Nora Crow, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Steven Gonzales-Warkentin, Chief of Staff
Ms. Lyn Myers, General Curator
Mr. Terry Skoda, Chief Development Officer

Item 01: Call to Order / Roll Call

Mr. Kirkland called the meeting to order at 5:41 PM. Mr. Gonzales-Warkentin took roll and established that a quorum was present. The Board proceeded with business.

Item 02: Public Comment

Mr. Kirkland asked if any members of the public wished to offer comment on items outside of the evening's agenda. Mr. Tom Lang, Executive Director/CEO of the Fresno Aquarius Aquarium Institute identified himself and stated that his organization has over ten acres of land where they intend to build an aquarium. He noted that the public mentions of the Zoo's master plan including references to a proposed aquarium and stated that he believed there were National Parks and Measure Z issues that would need to be resolved regarding construction of an aquarium by the Zoo. Mr. Kirkland thanked him for his comments.



Item 03: Additions to the Agenda

Mr. Kirkland asked if anyone had any emergency items that were brought to their attention after the posting of the meeting agenda that should be considered for discussion. Mr. Kirkland stated that any item proposed would be voted on by the Board. If the item received a 2/3 majority vote, it would be added to the meeting's agenda. With no other items proposed, he proceeded to the next item.

Item 04: Receive Chair Report

Mr. Kirkland stated that he heard very positive reviews of Safari Night and thanked staff for the hard work preparing for the event.

Item 05: Receive CEO Report

Mr. Dohlin said that Safari Night final numbers were still being tallied and that the Board would have a full report at the next Board meeting. He stated that he recently met with Mayor Dyer and his staff to review the Zoo's Masterplan. Mr. Dohlin also reported that he would be presenting the Master Plan to the City Council on October 20, 2022.

Mr. Dohlin continued by stating that Chief Veterinarian, Shannon Nodolf, would be leaving the Zoo at the end of the year in order to move closer to family in the Sacramento area.

Item 06: Approve Finance Committee Report

Mr. Morgenstern reviewed the Finance Committee Report which included the capital projects change orders discussed in the October 6th Finance Committee meeting. He brought the Board's attention to the Sea Lion Cove project that have less than 10% of its contingency allowance remaining with the approval of the proposed change orders. He stated that the Zoo was requesting \$27,648 for Kingdoms of Asia change orders and \$84,316.55 for Sea Lion Cover change orders.

After discussion, Ms. Vance made a motion to approve the Finance Report and recommendations as presented and Ms. Hashimoto seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 07: Approve Mixed Species Funding Request

Mr. Dohlin stated that the Zoo had finished demolition on the areas that was formerly the home to the Asian Rhinos. He said that new Mixed Species exhibit would be home to Malayan tapirs, Muntjac and Babirusa. Mr. Dohlin stated that when complete, the Asia Café will have views of the exhibit and provide an atmosphere much like Kopje Lodge where guests can eat while watching the animals in their habitat. He stated that the project went to bid and BMY was selected and that the Zoo was requesting \$7,676,345.97 from Measure Z funds for the construction of the exhibit.

Mr. Kirkland noted that while the proposed cost was somewhat higher than expected, when reviewed against the cost of past exhibits presented in the Board packet, the proposed cost of construction for the Mixed Species exhibit appeared consistent given its size and scope.

After discussion, Mr. Morgenstern made a motion to approve the request and Dr. Gonzalez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.



Item 08: Approve Ad Hoc Committee to Explore Financing Options

Mr. Morgenstern stated that the Finance Committee discussed the need to form an ad hoc committee to explore financing options for the Zoo's new Master Plan. He said that funding for the Master Plan would include Measure Z funds, private contributions and self-generated revenue and that it would be prudent to explore longer term funding alternatives as well.

Mr. Kirkland stated that this special committee would be for one year and the purpose of the committee would be to explore financing options.

After further discussion, Ms. Vance made a motion to form an Ad Hoc Committee to explore financing options and Mr. Parnagian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 09: Board Members Comments

Mr. Kirkland then asked if any Board Members had additional comments. Mr. Ilori stated that he was extremely impressed by the presentations given at Safari Night. Ms. Hashimoto added that she was pleased with the diversity of the presenters.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Kirkland adjourned the meeting at 6:28 PM.

ITEM 05: CHAIR REPORT