

THE COLUMBUS ZOOLOGICAL PARK ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 19, 2025

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting, which was held at the Athletic Club of Columbus, was called to order at 4:02 PM.

Attendance was noted as follows:

Bergwall, Tim	E	McConnell II, John H.	P
Boynton, Chris	P	Mentel, Sean	A
Brown, Michael	P	Moore, Rustin	P
Caulin-Glaser, Dr. Teri	P	O'Grady, Pam	P
Davis, Victor, Rev. Dr.	A	Owens, Kathy	A
Gusty, Dan	P	Paul, Kenneth	P
Hastings, Adriana	E	Schmid, Tom (ex-officio)	P
Jackson, Brent	P	Talarek, Zachary	P
Lloyd, Katie Wolfe	E	Wunsch, E. J.	E
Mallory, Lark	P		

Zoo staff attending: Senior Vice President of External Affairs, Brian Harman; Senior Vice President of Finance, Angel Mumma; Senior Vice President of Operations and Sustainability, Jen Ryan; Senior Vice President of Human Resources, Carman Wirtz; Vice President of Legal Affairs, Teresa McIntyre; Vice President of Philanthropy, Mayme Norman; Vice President of Communications and Marketing, Nicolle Gomez Racey; Director of DEIAB, Sathu Alagappan, and Recording Secretary, Sarah Doepke.

II. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

In Adriana Hastings' absence, Dan Gusty asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the December 11, 2024 Board of Directors meeting. There being none, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Pam O'Grady and seconded by Michael Brown. The minutes were approved as presented.

III. **MISSION MOMENT**

Chair Dan Gusty shared the "why" of his years-long involvement with the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and The Wilds.

Tom Schmid spoke to the group about the Zoo's partnership with Fort Hayes. Several students from the school have been coming to the Zoo and working alongside our trades teams as part of a larger career pathways program.

IV. **FINANCE UPDATE**

Angel Mumma gave the Board an update on Zoo attendance through February – we had several days of poor weather during the first two months of the year, and the Zoo closed on three days due to cold. Taking out Wildlights attendance, we are down 63% from what we planned, and down 56% from the same point last year. From a revenue perspective, through February, we are down about \$1.1 million. We are keeping a close eye on this over the next few weeks, through spring break – we are cautiously optimistic.

Ms. Mumma then discussed the 2025 capital improvement plan with the Board, and gave an update on our cash balance. We would like to utilize \$3 million of our unrestricted cash available towards our 2025 capital projects - \$2.5 million at the Zoo, and \$500,000 at The Wilds. Ms. Mumma gave a reminder of planned 2025 projects at both the Zoo and The Wilds. Following this

overview, Ms. Mumma stated that we are looking for the Board to approve the capital plan presented – verbal agreement from Board members was given.

Ms. Mumma then gave an overview of the Levy Oversight Committee meeting and discussed the resolution for the disbursement of levy funds.

A motion to approve the disbursement of \$3,233,039.00 from Franklin County to the Columbus Zoological Park Association for expenses incurred between January 1, 2025 through February 28, 2025 was introduced by Brent Jackson. The motion was seconded by Ken Paul and approved.

Ms. Mumma gave an update on diversity spending – we have incorporated subcontractor spending for large capital projects. In 2024, we spent 14% with minority contractors and subcontractors. The Board then discussed recommended changes to the purchasing policy – we will eliminate the minority spend percentage requirement from the written policy, but will internally increase our aspirational goal from 10% to 20%. In addition, we have worked to refine and improve our processes so that we have a clear path to achieve this goal. Ms. Mumma detailed these new processes, which include changes to the number of quotes that must be obtained, requiring all bids to go through the B2GNow platform, hosting training sessions for vendors for this platform, and hosting targeted focus groups to understand any challenges facing our vendors when it comes to our processes and procedures.

V. LEVY TASK FORCE UPDATE

Brian Harman gave the Board an overview of our recent perception survey results. The survey was for adult residents of Franklin County, and covered brand ratings, brand attributes, and news awareness, among other categories.

Mr. Harman then gave an update on the levy task force, including a campaign timeline. A political action committee (PAC) has been established – John H. McConnell is Chair of the PAC and Michael Brown is Treasurer.

VI. CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Brian Harman gave a brief reminder of the results of our recent feasibility study, as well as the key messages and priorities we will be focusing on in the campaign. Tom Schmid informed Board members that we plan to move forward with a comprehensive campaign, and provided details of the \$250 million campaign goal. The group then discussed the planned goal and the campaign as a whole. Following discussion, the Board was given an overview of campaign planning highlights and next steps.

VII. COMMUNITY IMPACT

Tom Schmid gave an update on several of our community programs, including the Culture Pass at the Columbus Metropolitan Library, sensory-friendly events at the Zoo, the Discovery Family Membership, the Day Pass program for several area schools, career development partnerships, school engagement maps, and Wild Encounters engagements.

Finally, Mr. Schmid informed the group of an opportunity we are working on for Board members to travel to several zoos and aquariums over a five or six day period to see their facilities and speak with their leadership teams. More details will be communicated as plans are developed.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to go into Executive Session was introduced by Pam O’Grady. The motion was seconded by Michael Brown and approved. The Board went into Executive Session at 5:21pm, and came out of Executive Session at 5:34pm.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 PM.



Dan Gusty, Chairperson



Sarah Doepke, Recording Secretary