

THE COLUMBUS ZOOLOGICAL PARK ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, June 18, 2025

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting, which was held at the event space at Safari Golf Club, was called to order at 4:05 PM.

Attendance was noted as follows:

Bergwall, Tim	P	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.	P	Owens, Kathy	A
Gusty, Dan	P	Paul, Kenneth	P
Hastings, Adriana	P	Schmid, Tom (ex-officio)	P
Jackson, Brent	P	Talarek, Zachary	P
Lloyd, Katie Wolfe	P	Wunsch, E. J.	P
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 Conservation, Dr. Jan Ramer; 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 Facilities and Planning, Tyler Menke; Vice President of Communications and Marketing, Nicolle Gomez Racey; Vice President of Animal Care, Doug Warmolts; Director of DEIAB, Sathu Alagappan, and Board Liaison, Suzy Kramer Lucci.

Guests: Representatives from LMN+ Thinc Architects

II. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Adriana Hastings asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the March 19, 2025 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**

A video was shared of Dr. Priya Bapodra, Senior Veterinarian at the Zoo, chronicling her journey to becoming a member of the veterinarian staff at the Zoo. Story telling is a critical part of sharing who we are as an organization. We are intentionally highlighting our wildlife heroes that are on our team.

IV. **FINANCE UPDATE**

Angel Mumma gave the Board an update on Zoo attendance and membership sales through May. Thirty percent of our attendance occurs between January – May. Attendance is currently down 23% to budget and 16% to prior year. The opening of North America Trek, the new waterslide at Zoombezi Bay, and the anticipated births should all help to improve our attendance numbers.

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 \$6,606,761 from Franklin County to the Columbus Zoological Park Association for expenses incurred between March 1, 2025 through May 31, 2025 was introduced by Ken Paul. The motion was seconded by EJ Wunsch. The motion was approved.

The Zoo has a line of credit in place to cover any shortfalls in cash due to the seasonality of the businesses. Ms. Mumma asked the Board for a resolution authorizing the SVP of Finance to secure a line of credit with Fifth Third Bank in the amount of \$10M for 18 months. There is a .03% fee associated with the line of credit. This line of credit is the same as in 2024. Ken Paul moved for approval and Rustin Moore provided the second. Brent Jackson abstained from the vote. The resolution was approved.

Ms. Mumma gave an update on diversity spending by sharing the Zoo's recent hosting of a "Doing Business with the Zoo Event" on May 21. Over 70 attendees representing over 60 organizations participated. Attendees heard presentations from certifying agencies and panel discussions. In addition, there was training on B2G Now, outlining how to use this system. We were joined by numerous community partners including the City of Columbus, COTA, Regional Airport Authority, Franklin County Board of Commissioners, ODEI and the Columbus Urban League. We received great feedback from the event from both attendees and the partner organizations. We plan to host a similar event in Muskingum County.

V. LEVY TASK FORCE UPDATE

Michael Brown, Treasurer for the Levy Campaign, thanked everyone who has helped so far and also thanked John McConnell for chairing the Levy Campaign. Mr. Brown presented key insights from recent voter polling.

Mr. Brown shared that the levy Campaign Committee has hired both a pollster and a campaign manager. "Our Columbus Zoo - Our Future" is the name of the political action committee. He cautioned that Zoo staff will not be able to campaign during work hours and that no campaigning can happen on Zoo property.

A levy resolution entitled: **Resolution authorizing the President/CEO of the Columbus Zoological Park Association to advise and notify the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners that the normal and customary percentage of the total General Fund appropriations within the ten-mill limitation for the provision and maintenance of zoological park services and facilities is insufficient beginning January 2025 and thereafter; therefore, the Columbus Zoological Park Association determines it will be necessary to levy a renewal tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation at a rate of three-fourths (0.75) of a mill, to be in effect for a period of ten years; and requests the Board initiate proceedings so the question of the renewal tax levy may be submitted to the electors of Franklin County at the general election on November 4, 2025,** was included in the pre-read materials for this Board meeting.

The Zoo's VP of Legal Affairs, Teresa McIntyre, asked if there were any questions about the levy resolution. There was discussion clarifying the differences between a renewal levy versus a replacement levy. We have decided a renewal levy is best as the net financial impact is lower for taxpayers. Mr. Schmid thanked Mr. Brown for his efforts in setting up meetings with both City and County officials.

Mr. Brown moved that the Zoo's Board of Directors adopt the levy resolution and Rustin Moore provided the second. The motion was approved. Pamela O'Grady abstained.

VI. NOMINATING AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

John McConnell presented the following for approval by the Board:

- Dr. Pete Edwards, Orthopedic Surgeon at Orthopedic One, for an open position on the Zoo's Board of Directors. Dr. Edwards has been a longtime supporter of the Zoo.
- Scott Dring, President and CEO of Visit Dublin, to serve on the Board for Zoombezi LLC

- Tim Wilson, President and CEO of Destination Delaware County, to serve on the Board of Zoombezi LLC

Ken Paul moved for approval of the three nominations and Rustin Moore provided the second. The motion was approved.

VII. CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Brian Harman gave a brief update on the fundraisers for 2025. RendeZOO was a great success. He thanked Fifth Third Bank for their sponsorship of the sold-out RendeZOO. Run Wild, in its second year, is scheduled for Sunday, July 6 and is already sold out. The Jack Hanna Legacy Cup golf outing, scheduled for Monday, July 14, is almost sold out. UNTAMED, our new gala, will take place on Friday, September 19. Sandy Doyle Ahern and Michael Ahern are co-chairing the event. He invited everyone on the Board to serve on the host committee. Fall Safari, the signature fundraising event supporting The Wilds, is on Friday, October 17 at The Wilds.

Brian also shared the Campaign Dashboard for the Capital Campaign update.

VIII. LMN & THINC PRESENTATION

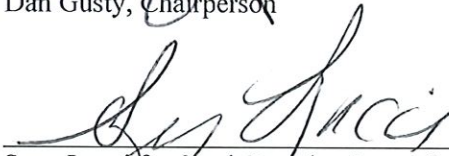
Representatives from LMN+Thinc Architects gave a presentation on the concepts and ideas for the new aquarium.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.



Dan Gusty, Chairperson



Suzy Lucci for Sarah Doecke, Recording Secretary