



FRESNO'S CHAFFEE ZOO CORPORATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024, AT 5:30 PM
894 W. BELMONT AVE, FRESNO, CA 93728 – ZOOPLEX

DIRECTOR	1/18/2024	3/14/2024	4/11/2024
Oliver Baines	X	X	X
Areli Garcia	X	A	X
Wilma Tom Hashimoto	X	X	X
Babatunde Ilori	X	X	A
Kyle Kirkland	X	X	X
Rion Morgenstern	X	X	X
Christina Musson-Rendon	X	X	X
Ross Parnagian	X	X	A
Emilia Reyes	X	X	X
Ethan Smith	A	X	A
Julie Vance	X	X	X

ADVISORS PRESENT

Mr. Jon Forrest Dohlin – Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Doug Larsen – Legal Counsel from Fishman, Larsen, Callister
Ms. Carlene Tinker – FCZC Docent President

ZOO STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Nora Crow – Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Steven Gonzales-Warkentin – Chief of Staff
Ms. Nicole Presley – General Curator
Mr. Terry Skoda – Chief Advancement Officer

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Kirkland asked if any member of the public wished to provide public comment for the Board. Hearing none, he proceeded with the agenda.

3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Kirkland then asked if any member of the Board had any business for consideration that came to their attention after the agenda was posted. No Board member offered an additional agenda item, so the Board proceeded with the agenda as published.



4. APPROVE MINUTES

Mr. Kirkland called the Board's attention to the draft minutes for the March 14, 2024 Board meeting and asked if any member had proposed additions or revisions. With no revisions offered, Ms. Vance made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Ms. Hashimoto seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. CHAIR REPORT

Mr. Kirkland deferred offering a report.

6. CEO REPORT

Mr. Dohlin discussed the proposed location of the aquarium in relation to where it is positioned within the Zoo's masterplan.

7. APPROVE THE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Kirkland asked Mr. Morgenstern to present the recommendation from the Finance Committee meeting the previous week. Mr. Morgenstern stated that the Finance Committee met on March 9th and recommended that the Board accept the Year-to-Date Financial Report through February 2024 and the release of retention for both Harris Electric \$23,557.50 and Durham Construction \$116,906.46 for work completed on the Conservation Action Center. After discussion, Mr. Morgenstern made a motion to approve the Finance Committee's report and Ms. Vance seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. APPROVE THE 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Ms. Crow reminded the Committee about a budget error discovered last month and discussed staff's efforts to resolve the resulting budget variances. She said that her team and department managers at the Zoo reviewed department budgets and identified areas for savings. Ms. Crow discussed proposed alternatives including efforts to reduce operating expenditures, salaries from open positions, and capital expenditures. She concluded that the impact on the budget would result in an increase in the budget deficit but assured the group that management did not believe the proposed reductions would undermine animal care, maintenance or guest experience.

Mr. Kirkland informed the Board that the Finance Committee discussed the revisions at length the previous week and recommended the Board approval the budget revision. After discussion Mr. Morgenstern made a motion to approve the 2024 budget amendment and Ms. Reyes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

9. APPROVE AFRICAN RIVER REPAYMENT PROPOSAL

Mr. Dohlin reminded the Board that the Zoo Authority had requested that the \$838,722 spent on the design of the African River exhibit be returned due to the project being shelved. He added that the Zoo had negotiated a 5-year repayment of the design funds with quarterly payments of \$46,500, an amount which included principal and 4% interest. Mr. Dohlin noted that he also requested the Zoo



Authority lift the earmark on the \$2.8 million set aside for the project. Mr. Kirkland suggested that Mr. Larsen work with the County Counsel to draft the terms of the repayment proposal. After discussion, Mr. Morgenstern made a motion to approve the African River repayment proposal and Ms. Garcia seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

10. FINAL COMMENTS

Mr. Kirkland asked if there were any old or new business to address or comments from members of the Board. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 6:13 PM astonishing all Board members with the brevity of the meeting, an unofficial record of 31 minutes in length.