



Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Corporation
Board of Directors Meeting
 Minutes

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 5:30 PM
 894 W. Belmont Ave, Fresno, CA 93728

MEMBER	1/19/23	3/23/23	6/27/23	8/10/23	9/26/23	10/24/23
Oliver Baines	A	X	A	X	X	A
Ed Gonzalez	X	X	X	X	A	X
Wilma Tom Hashimoto	X	X	A	X	X	X
Babatunde Ilori	X	X	X	X	X	A
Kyle Kirkland	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rion Morgenstern	X	X	X	X	A	X
Ross Parnagian	X	X	X	X	X	X
Emilia Reyes	X	X	A	X	X	A
Ethan Smith	X	X	X	X	X	A
Julie Vance	X	A	X	A	X	X

Advisors Present

Mr. Jon Forrest Dohlin, Chief Executive Officer
 Mr. Doug Larsen, Fishman – Larsen - Callister
 Ms. Carlene Tinker, Docent President

Zoo Staff Present

Ms. Nora Crow – Chief Financial Officer
 Mr. Sean den Bok – Chief of Education and Engagement
 Mr. Steven Gonzales-Warkentin – Chief of Staff
 Ms. Lyn Myers – Chief Operations Officer
 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 confirmed a quorum was present.

2. Public Comment

Mr. Kirkland asked if any members of the public wished to comment. Mr. Scott Barton, former Fresno Chaffee Zoo CEO, stated that he walked through Kingdoms of Asia and congratulated the Zoo on its completion.



3. Additions to the Agenda

Mr. Kirkland asked if any member of the Board had any business for consideration that came to their attention after the agenda was posted. With no items presented, Mr. Kirkland continued with the agenda as published.

4. Approve the Minutes

Mr. Kirkland called the Board's attention to the draft minutes from the September 26, 2023 Board meeting and asked if any member had additions or revisions. With no revisions offered, Mr. Parnagian made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, and Ms. Vance seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Gonzalez abstained.

5. Chair Report

Mr. Kirkland stated that he had nothing to report.

6. CEO Report

Mr. Dohlin started by saying how important it is for zoos to share best practices and experiences, particularly around husbandry. He said that Mr. Skoda and his team are working closely other zoos who house elephants to create a unified message around the care of these animals. Mr. Dohlin continued stating that Fresno Chaffee Zoo along with several other zoos who are part of the California Association of Zoos and Aquariums are working on various events and communications centered around the California Grizzly for the 100th anniversary of their extinction. Finally, Mr. Dohlin updated the Board on discussions regarding Playland. He stated the next steps in exploring possibilities is to meet with the City.

7. Approve Finance Committee Items

Mr. Kirkland stated that the Finance Committee met last week and discussed the three items presented within the report – change orders, release of design funds for overages and release of retention. He said that all are being recommended to the Board for approval. The first item, Kingdoms of Asia change orders, covers two change orders amounting to \$1,907,751. The second item was a request for the Zoo team to ask the Zoo Authority Board to move remaining design funds for Kingdoms of Asia to the construction budget to cover project overages. The last item was to request the release of the project retention from the Zoo Authority totaling \$1,736,650. After discussion [name] made a motion to approve the four items as recommended by the Finance Committee; [name] seconded. The motion passed without opposition.

8. Approve Valley Farm Project Funding

Mr. Dohlin reminded the Board that the Valley Farms had displaced due to the construction of Kingdoms of Asia and proposed building a temporary exhibit in advance of the larger, permanent Valley Farms in the context of the Master Plan. He then asked that the Board consider granting approval for construction costs, at a non-prevailing wage total of \$882,909.29. Ms. Crow presented various funding options stating that the best options would be to finance the project using internally generated funds from the general fund with a 5-year return at 3.6%. After discussion, Ms. Vance made a motion to approve the request and Dr. Gonzalez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.



9. Approve Bylaws Revisions

Ms. Vance stated that the Bylaws Committee recently met and proposed various changes to the bylaws. She led the board through each recommended change. After discussion, Mr. Parnagian made a motion to approve the recommended changes to the bylaws and Ms. Hashimoto seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Approve Nominating Committee's Recommendation for New Board Members

Mr. Parnagian stated that the Nominating Committee recently interviewed several highly qualified applicants to fill the current vacant seat left by Ms. Laura Clark, and the seat that will open once Dr. Gonzalez terms off the Board at the end of the year. He said that the two candidates the Committee is recommending are Ms. Christina Musson-Rendon and Ms. Arelis Garcia. After discussion Ms. Hashimoto made a motion to approve both candidates for an initial term, and Mr. Parnagian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Final Comments

Dr. Gonzalez stated that there is a possibility that he would not be able to make the November meeting. He said if that is the case, he wanted to say it has been an honor for him to serve on the Board for the past nine years. Mr. Dohlin and others thanked him for his service and dedication to the Zoo.

With no other business to discuss, Mr. Kirkland adjourned the meeting at 6:58 PM.