



Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Corporation

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**Agenda**

Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 5:30 PM

894 W. Belmont Ave., Fresno, CA 93728 – Zooplex

<b>DIRECTOR</b>	<b>1/16/2025</b>	<b>3/13/2025</b>
Arelis Garcia	X	X
Babatunde Ilori	X	X
Christina Musson-Rendon	X	X
Emilia Reyes		
Ethan Smith	X	
Julie Vance	X	
Kyle Kirkland	X	X
Oliver Baines		X
Rion Morgenstern	X	X
Ross Parnagian	X	
Wilma Tom Hashimoto	X	X

**Advisors Present**

Mr. Doug Larsen – Legal Counsel from Fishman, Larsen & Callister

Ms. Karen Westersund – Docent President

**Zoo Staff Present**

Mr. Jon Dohlin – Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Nora Crow – Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Sean den Bok – Chief of Education and Engagement

Mr. Steven Gonzales-Warkentin – Chief of Staff

Mr. Terry Skoda – Chief Advancement Officer

**Guest Speakers**

Mr. Ian Weiland – Attorney at Sagaser, Watkins & Weiland PC

Ms. Trayce Pedro – Director of Human Resources

**1. Call the Meeting to Order and Roll Call**



**1. Call the Meeting to Order and Roll Call**

Mr. Kirkland called the meeting to order at 5:45 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 offer comments to the Board. With none offered, the Board proceeded with the other Agenda items.

**3. Additions to the Agenda**

Mr. Kirkland then asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Mr. Morgenstern proposed adding a funding item to the agenda following the Finance Committee Report. A two-thirds majority of the Board voted to add the new item to the published agenda.

**4. Closed Session to Discuss Pending Litigation Govt. Code 54956.9(d)(1) – Mendez vs. Fresno’s Chaffee Zoo Corporation**

At 5:52 PM, Mr. Kirkland announced that the Board would go into closed session to discuss pending litigation under Govt. Code 54956.9(d)(1) – Mendez vs. Fresno’s Chaffee Zoo Corporation. At 6:08, Mr. Kirkland announced that the Board had returned from closed session with nothing to report.

**5. Approve the Minutes from the January 16, 2025 Board Meeting**

Mr. Kirkland then asked if any member of the Board had additions or revisions to the draft minutes included in the Board materials. With no revisions offered, Ms. Garcia made a motion to approve the January minutes as presented and Ms. Hashimoto seconded. Mr. Baines abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. Chair Report**

Mr. Kirkland offered brief comments on the political and economic climate and expressed optimism that the Zoo’s mission and brand could endure any economic or political volatility.

**7. CEO Report**

Mr. Dohlin stated that the Zoo is continuing to work with the City of Fresno on a proposed parking structure. He added that the Zoo had initiated design of the



maintenance warehouse facility and stated the events lawn project had been completed and the Zoo was looking for a sponsor. Finally, Mr. Dohlin also asked for an additional board meeting to be added in April to cover a few time-sensitive items.

**8. Approve the Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Morgenstern stated that the Finance Committee had reviewed the Finance Report for the period and recommended that the Board approved the report. While 2024 was a difficult year for the Zoo, Ms. Crow stated that January 2025 was the best January on record for attendance. After discussion, Mr. Morgenstern called the Board's attention to a request for retention releases for both Durham Construction (\$28,115.32) and C3 Electric (\$1,820.35) for the events lawn project. After discussion, Mr. Morgenstern made a motion to approve the Finance Committee Report including the release of retentions and Mr. Ilori seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**9. Added Item – Approve Plan to Address Immediate Cash Flow Needs**

Ms. Crow stated that due to budget shortfalls incurred in 2024, the Zoo needed added operating funds to make the upcoming payroll. Ms. Crow then presented two debt options to address short-term cash needs. After discussion, Mr. Baines made a motion to authorize Zoo management to take a single draw of \$1 million from the General Fund with bi-weekly accounting to the CEO, Board Chair and Treasurer. Mr. Ilori seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**10. Final Comments**

Mr. Kirkland asked if there were any final comments. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 6:47 PM.