



Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee

Oregon Zoo – Zoom
Wednesday, November 18, 2020
3 to 5 p.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Susan Hartnett (Chair)
Dan Aja
Naomi Bishop
Heidi Goertzen
Daniel Hauser
Nan Heim
Jill Mellen
Javier Mena
Chin See Ming
Robyn K. Pierce
Katherine A. Porras
Dick Stenson
Christine L. Taylor
Karen Weylandt
Kevin Spellman

AFFILIATION

Retired from Spectator Venues, City of Portland
Banfield Pet Hospital
California State University, Northridge (professor *emerita*)
Becker Capital Management
Oregon Center for Public Policy
Nan Heim Associates; Oregon Zoo Foundation Board of Directors
Research Biologist
Portland Housing Bureau, City of Portland
Gilbert Levy Bennett
Pierce, Bonyhadi & Associates
Meyer Memorial Trust
Retired healthcare executive; community volunteer
Miller Nash Graham & Dunn
Retired from Providence Health & Services
Spellman Consulting, Inc.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Laurel Brown
Emma Stocker

AFFILIATION

Assistant Director of Facilities Operations, Reed College
Emergency Management, Portland State University

GUESTS

None

AFFILIATION

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND STAFF

Shirley Craddick	Metro Councilor
Julie Fitzgerald	Oregon Zoo Foundation Executive Director
Caleb Ford	Metro Deputy Chief Financial Officer
Kate Giraud	Oregon Zoo Bond Project Manager
Sarah Keane	Zoo Administration and Finance Director
Bob Lee	Oregon Zoo General Curator
Jim Mitchell	Oregon Zoo Bond Construction Manager
Joel Morton	Metro Senior Attorney
Linnea Nelson	Assistant Management Analyst
Sarah Orizaga	Oregon Zoo Administrative Assistant III
Utpal Passi	Deputy Director, Zoo Operations
Staci Pfau	Oregon Zoo Bond Project Manager
Heidi Rahn	Capital Asset Management Director

A. Welcome / Introduction

Susan Hartnett, Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee Chair, opened the meeting at 3:03 p.m. Susan shared virtual meeting etiquette, gave an agenda item overview, and showed two cute videos; one showed Zoo guests dressed up for "Howloween" and the other was a YouTube clip of the chimps exploring their new mesh habitat at Primate Forest.

The committee briefly introduced themselves. Susan introduced Sarah Orizaga, who has joined the Oregon Zoo bond team as an administrative specialist. She will be working with Sarah Keane to close out this current Bond project. Susan also introduced Bob Lee, the Oregon Zoo's general curator, and informed the committee that he will be taking the place of Sheri Horizney who is no longer with the Oregon Zoo.

B. Approval of September 9, 2020, Oversight Committee meeting minutes

The minutes of the September 9, 2020, Oregon Zoo Bond Oversight Committee ("Oversight Committee" or "the Committee") meeting were approved by a show of hands via Zoom.

C. Monthly Project Updates

Polar Passage/Primate Forest/Rhino— Jim Mitchell began the updates:

- Construction progress lost five days due to wildfire smoke's impact on air quality.
- Polar Passage storage building has been delayed due to Zoo Lights. Part of the guest route blocks the necessary construction access. The building should now be complete in mid-February.
- Polar Passage work is scheduled to finish around January 1st.
- Fake rock-work at Polar Passage has been complete
- All three pools at Polar Passage have passed water leak tests.
- Projects are adhering to strict COVID protocols, including doing punch walks and architect walk-throughs via Zoom.

Project expected completion dates:

Rhino Habitat – 10/2020

Primate Forest – 10/2020 **Work to complete at Red Ape results in a dead end path at Primate Forest.

The logistics team placed stanchions along pathway to create one-way in and out access for guests. **

Red Ape – 12/2020 Complete remodel work.

Café – 11/2020

Polar Passage – 01/2021

Kate Giraud walked the committee through the newest project photos highlighting:

- Chimps enjoying the new day room
- Completion of Primate Forest's meshed habitat
- Completion of paving and landscaping work at Primate Forest
- The deep pool at Polar Passage after water-leak test was passed
- Completion of the fake rock work at Polar Passage
- An aerial photo of the three bond construction sites

Percent for art – Installation will be done post zoo-lights as the route goes through where the melting ice bear sculpture will be. Projected installation will be sometime in mid-January. The two benches can be installed sooner, around mid-to-end December. The artists are in Madrid and cannot join for the installation, but will be live via Zoom to see the installation process and to provide input or feedback. A representative from the Regional Arts and Culture Council will also be present for installation.

Interpretive Experience – No report

Naomi gave her perspective of the Primate Forest habitat after previewing the space in October. She reiterated how large it truly is.

Chin See Ming asked how many chimps will be brought to the Oregon Zoo. Bob Lee said that a troupe of 8 chimps will come in the spring of 2021. Animal staff will work with the incoming troupe to introduce them to the resident chimps between the spring and summer. The Oregon Zoo cannot disclose which institution the chimps are coming from at this time.

D. Program Status and Financial Information at a Glance

Sarah discusses program financials and closeout:

- The projects remain on budget with a good chance that the projects will come in under budget with contingencies remaining.
- The remaining funds are made of up foundation and incentive dollars. The Oregon Zoo is currently in conversation with the Oregon Zoo Foundation to determine what the remaining funds will be used for.
- COBID contracts remain at around 13%

Sarah then discusses the staff task list that was generated by the committee’s recommendations in the 2019 Annual Report:

- There were 12 recommendations made by the committee in the 2019 Annual Report
- 7 recommendations have been completed
- 2 are likely to be completed by the end of December 2020
- 3 likely won’t be completed until the bond project is completed
- For the final report, the committee can request that these tasks be addressed in the annual update
 - After the bond project is completed, it is the responsibility of the Oregon Zoo director to provide updates to Metro Council for these follow-up responsibilities

Sarah discussed how the bond team is focused on how to wind-down the program. Sarah Orizaga will begin working with Metro to retain records accordingly. She is also familiarizing herself with InDesign to create future reports.

E. Program Schedule

Project anticipated completion dates were reiterated.

Sarah discussed the plan for the various habitat openings.

- Currently Sarah K and Sarah O have been meeting with different teams across the zoo to brainstorm various preview and walk-through opportunities and/or small media events to celebrate habitat openings.

- There may be a separate event for a Bond completion celebration later in 2021. A more firm schedule of this and other events will be presented at the February 10, 2021 Bond Oversight Committee meeting.

F. Committee Annual Report—

Oversight Committee Report - Susan mentioned that there may be one more annual report, separate from the final report. Planning for this will start early next year, for discussion at the February 10, 2021 Bond Oversight Committee meeting. The committee will aim to deliver a final report to Metro Council around May 2021. Sarah O. is doing a careful proof read of the 2019 Annual Report so that the committee can have a clean copy to work from.

Others may still volunteer to work on the report. The list of committee members who have volunteered so far are:

- Susan Hartnett
- Naomi Bishop
- Robyn Pierce
- Christine Taylor
- Laurel Brown
- Kevin Spellman
- Dan Hauser

G. Zoo and Oregon Zoo Foundation Update

Zoo Updates – Passi shared that due to increased onsite activity, the Zoo has been able to hire back 15 employees. Over the summer, the Zoo was able to extend hours of operation to 8:00PM, 4 nights a week. Large events are still not being held, but the Zoo was able to bring families back for traditional events like Howloween in October, which was held over five sold-out days rather than two. Zoo lights had been planned with a model that offered both walking and driving routes. Due to new COVID restrictions, the Zoo will only be offering the driving route, 7 days a week, through January 10th.

- AZA Update: Accreditation site visit postponed to next year due to COVID. All of the required documents have been submitted. Accreditation will be prioritizing animal welfare, veterinary care, and safety; AZA understands the constraints zoos and aquariums are under and plan to be more flexible in their assessment of education, conservation, and financial position.

Animal updates – Bob shared that rhinos are due to arrive in spring, but because placement was delayed, there will be new recommendations for a pair of rhinos. The condors that were evacuated during the wildfires have all been brought back to the Johnson Center, except for seven chicks. They will remain at the Peregrine Fund in Boise until they are ready to be released. Since then, several birds have been released in Arizona. The animal welfare committee has a monitoring plan in place for Zoolights. Several species along the route will receive additional monitoring, but there are no major concerns that Zoolights will have a negative impact on the animals.

OZF Update – Julie shared that OZF is in their fourth year of the Heart of the Oregon Zoo campaign. A gratitude report for 2019 will be coming out week of Thanksgiving.

- Susan asks if the committee can write a letter to OZF expressing their appreciation with the Zoo Bond program. Julie and the committee agrees that this is a great idea. Susan will draft the letter and work with Julie and Nan Heim to get it to the Board of Trustees.

H. Open Discussion/Questions

Susan thanks the committee for the work they have put into zoo and bond work.
Susan closed the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

Upcoming 2021 meeting dates –Wednesdays, 3 to 5 p.m.:

Feb. 10, 2021

May 12, 2021 – FINAL MEETING

Sept. 15, 2021 – Keeping on calendars in case needed