



Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee

Oregon Zoo – Zoom
Wednesday, October 6, 2021
3 to 5 p.m.

Oregon Zoo Bond
Citizens' Oversight
Committee Meeting

October 6, 2021

Minutes

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

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
Pierce, Bonyhadi & Associates
Meyer Memorial Trust
Spellman Consulting, Inc.
Gilbert Levy Bennett
Retired healthcare executive; community volunteer
Miller Nash Graham & Dunn
Retired from Providence Health & Services

MEMBERS ABSENT

Laurel Brown
Javier Mena
Emma Stocker

AFFILIATION

Assistant Director of Facilities Operations, Reed College
Affordable Housing Manager, City of Beaverton
Emergency Management, Portland State University

GUESTS

None

AFFILIATION

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND STAFF

Shirley Craddick	Metro Councilor
Amy Cutting	Interim Deputy Director of C3
Julie Fitzgerald	Oregon Zoo Foundation Executive Director
Caleb Ford	Metro Deputy Chief Financial Officer
Jim Mitchell	Oregon Zoo Bond Construction Manager
Linnea Nelson	Assistant Management Analyst
Sarah Orizaga	Oregon Zoo Administrative Assistant III
Staci Pfau	Oregon Zoo Bond Project Manager
Heidi Rahn	Oregon Zoo Director

A. Welcome / Introduction

Susan Hartnett, Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee Chair, opened the meeting at 3:07 p.m. She welcomed the committee to the last Oversight Committee meeting and thanked the members for their service. Susan shared two personnel updates: Heidi Rahn has been appointed as Oregon Zoo Director. Susan welcomed Heidi back and congratulated her on this well-deserved next step. She also shared that Sarah Orizaga is leaving the zoo for a new position. Susan thanked Sarah for stepping into the role in the last year.

B. Approval of May 12, 2021, Oversight Committee meeting minutes

Naomi Bishop made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2021 Oregon Zoo Bond Oversight Committee ("Oversight Committee" or "the Committee") meeting. Dick Stenson seconded that motion. The minutes were approved.

C. Monthly Project Updates

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

- This is the 66th report Jim has given in 5 ½ years.
- COBID has ended up around 14.7% with \$14.6 million contributed to MWESB identified contractors. The aspirational goal set out in the bond measure was 15%, which we almost reached.
- The ladders in the mesh Primate Habitat needed one minor change to address a primate-safety concern. The project should be wrapped up in the next week.
- The final CMGC report will be done in November

Financial Wrap-up—Caleb Ford began the updates:

- There is some residual money for the projects in the zoo's capital fund that does not carry bond restriction. We have reached the end with great management thanks to Jim Mitchell. Caleb thanks Jim for sticking through a long bond project.
- Dick Stenson also commended Jim Mitchell for managing the bond budget over such a long time. He suggested that the entire bond project be turned into a case study for a business or planning graduate student.

D. Oversight Committee Reports

Susan posed the four following questions to the committee:

1. Do you support the Program Summary Conclusions on page 4?
2. Do you support the Financial Summary Conclusions on page 13?
3. Do you support the Final Recommendations on page 57?
4. Do you think the recommendations should remain in Appendix D or should they be moved to the conclusion of the main report on page 16?

The committee showed their support for each question with two thumbs up via Zoom. It was recommended to move the recommendations from Appendix D to the body of the report, on page 16. Naomi will be reviewing for typos and will send her edits to Susan this week.

The following members have requested a hard copy of the financial report:

- Linnea Nelson
- Robyn Pierce
- Karen Weylandt
- Dan Aja
- Naomi Bishop
- Julie Fitzgerald
- Dick Stenson
- Susan Hartnett

E. Zoo and Oregon Zoo Foundation Update

Animal updates from Amy Cutting: A new polar bear will be coming at the end of October from Maryland. She and Nora are from the same male polar bear, but have not met. Nora is settling into the habitat well, and just today did her first voluntary blood draw, which was a huge success. She did this at the training well in view of guests, and seems to prefer the training wall for these exercises. Nora's coat is in great shape, due to the saltwater pools. A new rhino, King, is on exhibit and doing well. A female rhino is expected by the end of October and it is the plan to hopefully breed them. The new primates have been delayed, due to some health concerns with two of the chimps. The zoo offered to take the subset, but the sending institution preferred to keep the troupe together to protect their dynamic. The plan is to receive the new chimps in spring 2022.

Oregon Zoo Foundation update: Julie Fitzgerald and her team are continuing their work on condor funding. The zoo's conservation interpretives help with this continued funding. Nan Heim commended the partnership between the foundation and the oversight committee. She commented that the work done by the committee has been very inspiring for all foundation board members.

Oregon Zoo Update: Heidi Rahn explained where we go from here.

- The zoo is bringing back staff to rebuild and reshape best practices.
- Some programs will come back, but may look different than before, and hopefully be stronger
- Right now it seems that there is constant onboarding because so many people have come into new roles, but the zoo is reshaping how this is done so that it benefits both new employees and those who will be working with them.
- All of the bond staff have been taken care of and each person has a path forward. Staci Pfau has transitioned to be a project manager in the facilities department.
- The zoo's master planning needs a re-fresh.
- The zoo will go in front of the AZA accreditation board on November 5th to receive the final certification.

Councilor Shirley Craddick addressed the committee. She highlighted the work that has been done over the past 11 years and said she has felt lucky to be a part of the oversight committee during her tenure as Metro Councilor. She particularly noted that the efforts of this oversight committee have been replicated across the agency for other bond measures. This committee has been a model for all other oversight committee structures.

F. Open Discussion/Questions

No open discussion. The committee members each took a moment to say their farewells. Susan reminded everyone of the celebration event on October 7th. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.