

SALISBURY ZOO COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Clifton Griffin, Linda Weiner, James Maybury, Don Pulver, Jack Heath, Dave Harris, Karen Lutz, Lorraine Bozman, Doreen Devlin

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Brian Raygor, Leigh Yanus

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Andy Kitzrow

STAFF PRESENT: Leonora Dillon, Mary Poudel

STAFF ABSENT: Mary Seemann

Clifton Griffin called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon at the Zoo Education Center and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: The minutes from the January 19, 2022 meeting were approved with a motion by Linda Weiner and seconded by James Maybury.

Financial Report: The financials are getting back to normal, doing well. Motion to approve financial summary made by Don Pulver and seconded by Linda Weiner.

STAFF REPORTS:

ZOO Director's REPORT:

March ZC meeting

Staffing:

Keeper position – Adrienne Liszkiewicz starts Monday, March 14.

Gary, after 48 years of service, has decided his last day will be April 22, 2022. He does not want anything done for his retirement. I've submitted his letter of resignation to HR and Field Ops Director. Once we have the appropriate signature, the position posting for a Keeper II and Keeper III will be put out on the city website.

Animals:

We have a lead for a potential placement for the Black neck swan and both gators. It will be difficult to place them together. (After completing our master exhibit review, there were a variety of aspects in the gator exhibit identified as below minimal standards.) It was determined we would have to do a complete overhaul of the exhibit to consider keeping them. A variety of discussions took place on the reality of us being able to manage them. Tameeka feels the girls are too large for us to handle safely and with the exhibit concerns, it was decided to try and find a location where they could live providing appropriate space and staff to manage them.

The capybara, Vanessa passed between Friday, March 4 and Saturday, March 5. Tameeka has been treating her for a variety of GI issues. Vanessa had just undergone a procedure in Baltimore Friday morning in expectation of eliminating the health issues.

The Education Ambassador Merlin is in the hospital in quarantine. If all results come back as needed, he should be out by the end of March.

We have a place to potential relocate the black neck swan and gators.

Projects:

The East Kiosk will be refurbished starting March 15 by a volunteer group from Gillis Gilkerson. This is a community “give-back” project. Termite damage was discovered.

Chuck is working with the city DID staff to get the appropriate maps and information required to submit our first application to MDE.

Ocelot Holding Eagles scout is complete. The project for Tropics Trail pond restoration should be completed early in April.

Zoo Happenings:

Several Service groups will be in the zoo prior to Earth Day to help get the winter remains out!

Story time starts in April with LEAF, Earth Day, Wild about Reading and lots of school programming to follow more from Education.

We are not 100% sure when the trailer will be complete and delivered. The last update I had from Charles indicated he had not been told anything new, so we are hoping all still goes according to plan and it will be completed and delivered by the end of May. Once onsite, utilities, phone, security, electric and IT hook ups will have to take place prior to the staff being able to occupy. I’m guessing it will be mid to late June before all of that happens and we are in place. The building height may have to be raised to accommodate a ramp for ADA.

A capital campaign get-together will be held in June to reacquaint the public with the zoo.

Jack at Field Operations gave us space for office materials to be stored.

A pavilion is planned for the stage area with a permeable surface. Funds could come from Project Open Space.

MARKETING and DEVELOPMENT REPORT:

Marketing and Development Report for March 17th, 2022 Meeting

Fundraising:

George Mengason Eagle Exhibit Memorial Fund

We have received over \$4800 in memorial donations for the eagle exhibit. Some are still coming in. Thank you notes and correspondences are ongoing.

Marketing and Development Intern:

Our intern from Salisbury University is doing a wonderful job with social media. He is getting our TikTok account going.

Events:**Zoo Stampede and Earth Day: April 23rd, 2022****Zoo Stampede 5K**

We have over 70 race applicants for our virtual and onsite 5K sponsored by VP Shoes.

Earth Day:

So far we have gotten 4 \$300 sponsors for Earth Day. I am working with Bryan and Brittingham for the \$1000 t-shirt sponsorship.

VIP – What’s New at the Zoo Event – TBD – 1st or 2nd Thursday in May 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

This is an event is for large donors and politicians to showcase what we have accomplished over the past few years.

Pollinator Day:**Go Wild with Art and Amphibians: July 9th 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm**

Evening event to celebrate amphibians, honor Preston Automotive’s sponsorship and promote the Zoo.

Capital Campaign:0

Ongoing meetings with key staff, DZS and Zoo Commission. Met with some key people for advice and help with the campaign. Received a \$10,000 donation from a donor for the Capital Campaign. We do not have an official group at this time.

Potential artist rendering of bear exhibit but still don’t know who will build it.

Guest Services**Gift Shop, Greeters, Beastro: Opening weekends only in April. 10:30 to 3:30pm**

Prepping Ocelot Spot Gift Shop and Beastro for opening in a couple of weeks. Starting to receive applications for both.

New Kiosk:

Gillis Gilkerson employees will be refurbishing the front kiosk with a new door and facade. We will add a service shelf under the window and a donation area for greeters eventually.

EDUCATION CURATOR REPORT:**Education Department Zoo Commission Report 3.16.22**

1. Spring docent training is happening this month, we have 6 new candidates.
2. We have two large service learning groups coming in prior to Earth Day to prepare the zoo for the event.
3. All of our ambassador animals are meeting AZA requirements.

4. We have a new addition to the collection, a merlin. One of our docents will be training the bird to help prepare him for programming when he is out of quarantine.
5. Our striped skunk, Wisteria, passed away. Adding a new mammal to the collection is priority. Archie, the rabbit, is being trained for programs. Area for guinea pigs is being explored.
6. Our 3rd grade program, LEAF, will be in person this year and all schools have been scheduled for 3/31 and 4/1. There are only morning sessions because buses are only available from 9-2.
7. We have a very busy spring/summer ahead of us, I have been booking programming daily. Work is being done for summer zoo camps, summer scholars, Z2U's, and sensory zoo activities.
8. I am planning our Wild About Reading, Inc and Reading with Science with Amanda Banks, for Thursday, May 12th from 5-7pm.
9. The Education Department is focusing on getting exhibitors and craft vendors for Earth Day on Saturday, April 23rd from 10am-4pm. Tidal Health (healthy snacks) and Pepsi (beverages) have been added.
10. We are hiring for the Education Technician position and are accepting applications (looking for college applicants).

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Friends of the Salisbury Zoo: Linda Weiner -No Report

Docents: Karen Lutz – Busy supporting multiple programs, not getting any younger

Herb Society: Lorraine Bozman/Mary Jane Swafford –

The first 2022 meeting of the Herb Society was held on March 7. Plans for the year's agenda were finalized. Garden clean up will begin at our April meeting. The May meeting is usually devoted to planting the current year's garden. This may be impacted by any damage done to the Boxwoods and other perennial plants during rebuilding of the kiosk.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education Committee: Dave Harris

Public Relations: Mary Seemann – see Marketing Report

Year to Date Financial Report – James Maybury see forms

Old Business:

On-going Honey Zoo projects – Leonora Dillion

Electrical work to be done.

ZC/DZS/ City Capital Campaign for Bear Exhibit:

Capital Campaign group to be formed.

MLGIP/Eagle exhibit/gala

Rough designs need to be provided by builders

Money is being collected.

New Business:

FSF Bank Account Signing Authority:

Now: James Maybury, Clif Griffin, Brian Raygor, Karen Lutz (Karen ask to be removed to make room for local signers.)

To be Added: Dave Harris, Don Pulver

Update the Zoo Commission Roster ?:

Equipment expenditure:

Incidentals for bear cubs

Cub Cam approximately \$2K. We need contacts with Comcast to establish a camera access account.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jack Heath and seconded by James Maybury.

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, May 18, 2022 in the Zoo Education Building.

Public comments in writing only.

The Zoo Commission reserves the right to go into a closed session pursuant to Maryland's Open Meeting Law.