

# SALISBURY ZOO COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2022

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Clifton Griffin, Linda Weiner, Dave Harris, Karen Lutz, Lorraine Bozman, Doreen Devlin, Allen Swigurt

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** James Mayberry, Leigh Yanus, Don Pulver, Jack Heath, Dave Harris

**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 March 16, 2022 meeting were approved with a motion by Linda Weiner and seconded by Lorraine Bozman.

**Financial Report:** Financial report was proved. Approval will wait until James' return.

### ***STAFF REPORTS:***

#### **Zoo Directors Report**

##### Staffing:

Keeper position – We chose a candidate to fill Gary's position. We are waiting for her final decision on accepting. Keeper will start 6/20.

Just in case, staff continues to look at other applications but have not found anyone qualified as of yet. Still looking for Ed Tech position but there are not many applications

##### Animals:

The new capybara, Pecan (pronounced with a hard P- and southern twang) is on site and doing well. Brinkley and Cheyanne have been working on an introduction plan with vet staff and on Wednesday (5/11/22) the girls will have a "howdy" (soft) introduction.

Bayou (sloth) had her physical 5/11/22. All is well, she will be given outside access, but there is no guarantee for sightings as of right now since outside appears to be very scary to her.

Male Red wolf from Bowie Alleghany River will be on site May 12. He will be in quarantine, but will be visible to the public since his quarantine is the exterior yard to the left of the hospital.

Black neck swan and gators are settled in their new home and doing well.

##### Projects:

The East Kiosk is almost complete just waiting for electricity to be complete. We are waiting on the bid from the electricians to try and get electric restored. Once that is complete the project will be fully functioning.

Chuck is waiting on DID staff to complete their part of the mapping required to submit our first application to MDE. There are a total of eight maps involved.

##### Zoo Happenings:

Lots of programming and events taking place with Education. MP will tell all about them.

We are not 100% sure when the admin trailer will be delivered. The last update I got from Charles indicated he was waiting on the contractors to get a date from the subcontractors to get the piers in. Charles indicated he hopes to know more by the end of the week (May 13ish).

## **MARKETING and DEVELOPMENT REPORT:**

**Guest Services:** Monica Byrd and Kiki Richardson were hired for the Guest Services team. Kiki had worked with us last year through the Junior Achievement grant through the City's partnership. Monica was a part of the Zoo Crew a year ago.

**Gift Shop:** When the weather is good, the shop is doing very well. Our biggest day was in April with a net of \$2700. Fortunately, we are keeping up with gift shop stock as there is a shortage do to supply chain issues.

**Beastro:** We are selling pre-packaged items and drinks at this point due to the work on the bathrooms. Sales are adequate at this time.

### **Events**

Zoo Stampede was a success especially coming out of Covid. We did a live and a virtual. We had 220 participants. Thanks to Vernon Powell Shoes who sponsored the event.

### **Baby Bear Naming Contest and Chaska's Baby Registry**

The Baby Bear Naming contest with \$5 a vote brought in \$1292. Chaska's Baby Registry campaign is ongoing until June 16<sup>th</sup> is at \$2,790.67.

### **VIP "What's New at the Zoo"**

"What's New at the Zoo" VIP event invites have gone out. The VIP event The event is an invite only to those that have supported the Zoo with larger donations over the years or supported us in other ways that have help with obtaining large donations. The event is June 9<sup>th</sup> with keeper talks, Mayor invocation, food and drinks.

### **Chaska's Baby Shower**

This will take place for those that donated \$150 or more to the Baby Registry, they get invited to the baby shower. The shower will take place June 23, 2022.

### **Pollinator Day**

Pollinator day is June 25<sup>th</sup> and will be focused near the Zoo stage. Jenny Rosencranz and master gardeners will provide a craft for children an information about pollinators. Thom Babcock, the Zoo's beekeeper will be there to talk about bee keeping.

## **EDUCATION CURATOR REPORT:**

- Two candidates to be interviewed
- Another part-time position coming
- LEAF programs are completed and successful.
- Wild about Reading had 111 children, all libraries were represented, STEM programs were emphasized, United Way was there, parents want every year.
- Sensory experience at the zoo was a wash out because of weather.
- Multiple programs on the calendar: Z2U in nursing homes, Bunk with the Beast, Nora Roberts progra (kits for children in preschools and toddlers)
- Rabbit enclosure completed
- Three new ambassador animals

## **ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS**

**Friends of the Salisbury Zoo:** Linda Weiner -No Report

**Docents:** Karen Lutz – Docents will be helping with the programs in Education Department

**Herb Society:** Lorraine Bozman/Mary Jane Swafford –

Earth Day in the Herb Garden didn't start out very well. Coffee and hot water urns were in place and plugged in at 7AM. With that done we could set up our displays in the garden and our exhibits along the walkway at the East Gate entrance. The racers and their supporters started to arrive shortly after 8 AM (these are some of our beverage drinkers). Our signs suggested that donations would help keep our garden growing. None of the urns were even warm. The grounds keeper came and found another outside receptacle not working. Finally they plugged the extension cord into the aviary but it was too late to make the usual amount of sales.

The good news was our displays in the garden and our exhibits were a huge success. Dudley, one of our docents had a game he called, "Trash Talk, which showed the visitors how trash harms our marine animals. Our exhibit of the whale with a belly full of plastic bags, cups, straws, etc. drew lots of visitors. Everyone who promised to dispose of trash properly so that it wouldn't harm the earth got to sign a huge poster.

Our exhibit illustrating a live coral reef next to a bleached reef became a photo op. Countless parents took photos of the sign showing which ingredients in sunscreen contributed to the cause of the reef destruction and which could also cause hormonal damage in humans. The sign also encourage visitors to use mineral based sunscreen which has proven safe.

Our 2022 garden is almost completed. We are planning a plant Sale on May 14 and those proceeds will help pay for this year's plants.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Education Committee:** Dave Harris – no report

**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**

New projects on-going with Salisbury University

**ZC/DZS/ City Capital Campaign for Bear Exhibit:**

New energy lately with expanded number of people involved

Getting community involved

VIP event June 9, 2022

Input from consultant

Varied groups working together

***New Business:***

Upcoming bear camera

**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

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made.

**The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, July 20, 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.