

SALISBURY ZOO COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Clifton Griffin, Dave Harris, Karen Lutz, Lorraine Bozman, Jack Heath, Amy Heger, Linda Wainer, Leigh Yanus, James Maybury, Don Pulver

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Allen Swiger

STAFF PRESENT: Leonora Dillon, Mary Poudel, Jamie Nichols

Clifton Griffin called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon at the Zoo Education Center and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Well wishes were extended to Jack Heath for being named Mayor Jack Heath as Jake Day took a job in the Gov. Wes Moore's administration.

Minutes: The minutes from the November 16, 2022 meeting were approved with a motion by Don Pulver and seconded by James Maybury. The motion passed.

Financial Report: James shared that he and Jaimie Nichols are working on the new budget. There are no concerns at this time as income is up, MSDE grant-funding is up, number of events is up. The numbers from Shore Gives will be forthcoming.

STAFF REPORTS:

ZOO Director's REPORT:

1. Meeting with DZS board tonight. Zoobilee may be returning this summer.
2. FOSZ will no longer be in existence. Linda Weiner will still be on the Zoo Commission. James Maybury will compose a letter to dissolve the committee (official requirement). Zoo Funds for Kids will be transferred to the Zoo Commission.
3. A cover is to be built over the compressor at the new Administration Building to protect it from the weather.

Animals:

1. The marmoset was introduced to the cotton-top tamarin and they seem to be getting along.
2. The goats are still in quarantine with worm issues and are receiving medical treatment. There is also concern about how the turkeys will react.
3. The baby bears are behaving and Chaska has not been aggressive toward them. They are eating a lot of food. The zoo is talking to possible placement zoos.

Zoo Happenings:

1. The Annual Appeal is on-going.
2. Marketing has taken in \$9,000. What else can be done to increase resources?
3. ABCD has hired a new marketing director, Vanessa Junkin and a maintenance person who will work 70% of the time at the zoo. The manager for the Ocelot Shop and Beastro, part-time staff, and greeters will report to Jamie Nichols.

EDUCATION CURATOR REPORT:*

January 2023 Education Committee

1. Barnes & Noble was a success making over \$1,000.
2. Next Generation brochures will be made for upcoming programs.
3. LEAF is being modified to meet new MSDE standards.
4. Education Department is partnering with Dr. Rhys Bemis from SU again for programs for special needs children and their families. SU students will also gain experience in the programs.
5. Partnerships with Boards of Education, the Ward Museum, and environmental agencies will be established with the focus on kindergarten students.
6. Summer programs are being developed/modified.
7. Wild about Reading date will be forthcoming.
8. The Docent Handbook will be updated and evaluations will be performed.
9. The department would to apply for an additional ed tech.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Friends of the Salisbury Zoo: Linda Weiner -No Report

Docents: Karen Lutz – Dudley Bowman developed a report on docent hours. The basic summary is that the number of docents and their hours have declined. There are several reasons: aging docents, the pandemic, and changing programs. The last docent classes have been large and this is encouraging. Officers for this year: President – Walter McCabe, Vice-President – Lorraine Bozman, Secretary – Bridget Foster

Herb Society: Lorraine Bozman/Mary Jane Swafford – The garden is sleeping. Mary Jane Swafford has been putting down mushroom soil.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education Committee: Dave Harris

The committee is looking for grants for early childhood programs to fit the Maryland blueprints.

Public Relations: No report

Year to Date Financial Report – James Maybury -

The financial report was provided and discussed. A motion was made by Dave Harris and seconded by Linda Weiner to accept the financial report. The motion passed.

Old Business:

1. ZC/DZS/ City Capital Campaign for Bear Exhibit: The group is still meeting but there was a lull during the holidays.
2. Honey Zoo project is on-going.

New Business:

1. The Zoo Commission is transferring \$60,000 - \$65,000 to city and the funds will be returned for staff salaries. New software, ABCD, operational finances now falls under the city but they cannot raise funds. This plan should allow for more concise reports.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by James Maybury, seconded Lorraine Bozman and passed.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Public comments in writing only.

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