

SALISBURY ZOO COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Clifton Griffin, Dave Harris, Karen Lutz, Lorraine Bozman, Allen Swigurt, James, Mayberry, Jack Heath, Don Pulver

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Leigh Yanus

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Andy Kitzrow

STAFF PRESENT: Leonora Dillon, Mary Poudel, Kristina Ruhl, 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.

Minutes: The minutes from the May 18, 2022 meeting were approved with a motion by Don Pulver and seconded by Lorraine Bozman. 00The motion passed.

Financial Report: Financial report was encouraging as revenues are getting back to normal. Several reasons were given: gate money from increased attendance, events in full swing again, less money to city because of unfilled jobs. Lorraine Bozman made a motion to accept the financial report and seconded by Dave Harris. The motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS:

ZOO Director's REPORT:

September ZC meeting

Staffing:

Keeper position open– posted on AZA & ZAA. Hoping to get a PT Maintenance person to assist with various small projects/jobs around the zoo, spread the word if you know of anyone that has some experience as a handyman/woman.

Animals:

Pearl, the whitetail deer passed away.

We have a Black-Tufted Marmoset coming in the end of this month (hopefully) to be a companion for Bianca, the Cottontop Tamarin.

We will have a pair of Ibis' coming in around the same time. Our Rosella, Michael will be leaving so he can be part of a flock of birds, again.

Projects:

The Admin trailer in on site. Lots of contractor will be in over the next few weeks to get everything reconnected and a giant ramp built.

City DID staff should have all the information required to submit our first application to MDE. I requested the status of the permit, but I haven't heard back if the permit has been submitted.

Dave's group is to connect with Chuck over the next week to coordinate a variety of projects that have been on our to do list for a while. Hopefully these can be completed before the end of October.

Zoo Happenings:

Story time ends this month, Spooktacular and Not so Scary Halloween Happening are coming up, more details will be given from Education.

Tree companies are examining trees.

Tameeka at meeting/conference for Zoo Vets.

Capital campaign planning is moving along slowly.

MARKETING and Outreach REPORT:

The Ocelot Spot Gift Shop and Beastro are working on limited hours, due to off-season hours.

Beastro will be closed after this weekend, except Halloween Happening and a few Holiday events in December. Ocelot Spot will be open on Saturdays until Halloween Happening. It will then be open for special Holiday events. Stay tuned to social media for those select dates.

Halloween Happening Tickets are now on sale. They can be purchased online Not So Scary Halloween Happening (givesignup.org) or on Saturdays at the Ocelot Spot.

Halloween Happening membership tickets can be picked up at Ocelot Spot on Fridays from 1pm-4pm or Saturdays from 11-3.

We're staying busy with Capital Campaign. Once we get further along in the Campaign, we will release more information.

The web site is being edited.

Clif suggested contacting the Volunteer Center at Salisbury University for additional volunteers.

EDUCATION CURATOR REPORT:

Zoo Commission-September 2022 Education Report

- New staff in place-fully staffed education department
 - Catie Hamel-Education Technician
 - Cameron Lane-Americorps
 - Drew – Part time education department
- Completed Summer 2022 Season-WorWic Summer Scholars, Jr. Keeper Camp, numerous Zoo2Us, events, and Wildlife Encounters. Programming back in full swing compared to last year with Covid restrictions. We will be returning to nursing homes again.
- Bunk With the Beasts Campout Event on September 9th was a success with 15 families signed up.
- Already scheduled our 3rd grade LEAF programming for Spring 2023 The program will only be A.M. because of driver shortage.

- We have begun to prepare for our October Halloween Events, Spooktacular Halloween and Halloween Happening. We had a meeting last week with other members of the ABCD department to assist us in preparing for the event. Hoping to have an even greater attendance than last year.
- Received \$18,486 with the State Aided Institutions Grant for Fiscal Year 2023.
- Goal this coming fiscal year is to bring back Girl Scout and Home school programming for an increase in revenue during the off season.
- Training 16 new docents this fall.
- Hopefully ed department will be back to making money again.
- Birthday parties until 10/8/22
- Toddler kits for toddler and daycare centers are almost ready. Money for this was made possible from a grant from Nora Roberts.
- All education animals are up to AZA standards.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Friends of the Salisbury Zoo: Linda Weiner -No Report, Board has been dissolved.

Docents: Karen Lutz – Docents are excited about new docents and having them shadow. Docents will be helping with the Education Department programs.

Herb Society: Lorraine Bozman/Mary Jane Swafford –

Our garden year is winding down. It's been a very hot and often times dry summer. The garden suffered, even though it was watered regularly.

One of our members volunteered to shore up the garden edging by putting bricks on the walkway side. This will support the edging and also minimize the amount of sand that migrates down on to the walkways.

Once the hurricane season is over and the threat of garden flooding is past, we plan to enhance the soil by adding mushroom compost to the garden. By allowing it to perk through the soil over the winter, we should be able to enhance the appearance of the plants next year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education Committee: Dave Harris – no report

Public Relations: No report

Year to Date Financial Report – James Maybury - We need to meet with Leonora Dillon, James Maybury, Clif Griffin for 2023 budget.

Old Business:

On-going Honey Zoo projects – Leonora Dillion

Carpenters are working.

20+ projects

ZC/DZS/ City Capital Campaign for Bear Exhibit:

Bear Necessity Campaign

-Lots of different activities going on

-Searching for new leadership with contacts with large contributors

- Rendering of exhibit needed for planning.

-Bear exhibit will expand the footprint of the zoo.

-Don Pulver will be reaching out to people in Worcester County for contributions.

New Business:

By-laws update needed to reflect the changes of department from FO to ABCD. (?)

James Maybury made a motion, Don Pulver seconded, motion passed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and passed.

Public comments in writing only.

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