



**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
September 18, 2023**

PRESENT: Andrea Smith, President
Tim Reid
Rosie Ayala

REMOTE: Michael Liang

EXCUSED: Aaron Pointer

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

PLACE: MPT Headquarters 4702 S. 19th St.

The meeting was called to order by President Smith at 5:30pm.
Commissioner Ayala was appointed as Acting Clerk for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

August 21, 2023 COW Minutes.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as presented; seconded and passed unanimously.

ZEED SPECIES PLAN

Alan Varsik explained to the Board that a species plan is a tool to guide population decisions for the Zoo and NW Trek. He noted that the plan is a living document that defines and informs and takes into consideration the priorities of all stakeholders. Mr. Varsik informed Board members that there are many things that influence the plan including AZA accreditation standards & code of professional ethics, AZA Program, government regulations, facility themes/structure, animal care, education objectives, and existing plans.

Marc Heinzman, curator at NW Trek and Malia Somerville, curator at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium then spoke about plan criteria used by staff as follows: available resources, sustainability, conservation scientific inquiry & guest experience. Marc and Malia also shared a decision-making model used in determining species for the plan. Using the criteria and model the staff explained why the Zoo does not have Pandas in its plan.

Alan Varsik concluded the presentation by commenting that the species plan needs to remain as objective as possible, but there is always room for some subjectivity. He also commented that the plan is not just additive as it does serve as a decision tool to stop having a species at a facility

or justify maintaining a species that is already present. Mr. Varsik further commented that the plan is driven by curatorial and veterinary staff in consultation with other ZEED staff.

Commissioner Liang suggested that perhaps the Board and staff think about codifying the Species Plan in policy.

DISTRICT POLICY EQUITY REVIEW

000.001 Policies & Procedures of the Board of Park Commissioners

Board members were reminded that they completed a technical review of this policy at the August 21st COW Meeting. Chief Equity Officer Norinda Rosario Yancey explained the equity note tool that is used to complete the review. Hunter George shared results of the staff's equity review of the policy that resulted in many of the recommend changes to the policy including more inclusive language, additional means of community comment, the addition of a land acknowledgement at Board meetings, and the addition of an equity review requirement to occur during district policy development and review. There was Board discussion regarding the questions highlighted in the equity note designed to assess potential impacts of a proposal or policy on those most marginalized and identify opportunities within the proposal to improve it impacts.

Board members recommended the policy changes be brought forward formally for consideration at a future Board meeting for first reading.

OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Commissioner Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by:
Jennifer Bowman, Secretary