



Oregon Zoo Bond  
Citizens' Oversight  
Committee Meeting  
Feb. 11, 2015  
Minutes

## Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee

Oregon Zoo – Skyline Room  
Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015  
3 to 5 p.m.

### MINUTES

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Kabeiseman (Chair)  
Noah Bishop  
Sharon Harmon  
Deborah Herron  
Deidra Krys-Rusoff  
Daniel Morris  
Mike Schofield  
Ruth Shelly  
Penny Serrurier  
Bob Tackett  
Tom Turnbull

#### AFFILIATION

Garvey Schubert Barer  
Bishop Bankruptcy Law, LLC  
Oregon Humane Society  
Walmart  
Ferguson Wellman Capital Management  
Our Oregon  
Gresham-Barlow School District  
Portland Children's Museum  
Stoel Rives LLP  
Northwest Oregon Labor Council  
OpenSesame Inc.

#### MEMBERS ABSENT

Tony Butchart  
Mickey Lee  
Carter MacNichol

#### AFFILIATION

Hummingbird Homes  
MPower Oregon  
Shiels Oblatz Johnsen, Inc.

#### GUESTS

Charles Smith  
Gary Thompson  
Peggy Thompson

#### AFFILIATION

Portland State University student  
ZooGuide  
ZooGuide

#### ELECTED OFFICIALS AND STAFF

Shirley Craddick  
Teri Dresler  
Caleb Ford  
Jani Iverson  
Jim Mitchell  
Joel Morton  
Linnea Nelson  
Heidi Rahn  
Scott Robinson  
Marcia Sinclair  
Nadja Wielebnowski

Metro Councilor  
Oregon Zoo Interim Director  
Oregon Zoo Budget and Finance Director  
Oregon Zoo Foundation Director  
Oregon Zoo Bond Construction Manager  
Metro Senior Attorney  
Oregon Zoo Bond Program Coordinator  
Oregon Zoo Bond Program Director  
Metro Deputy Chief Operating Officer  
Oregon Zoo Marketing  
Oregon Zoo Conservation and Research Manager

#### **A. Welcome / Introduction**

Bill Kabeiseman, Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee Chair, opened the meeting at 3:07 p.m. and welcomed members. Members and staff introduced themselves.

**B. Approval of Nov. 12, 2014, Oversight Committee meeting minutes**

Members approved the minutes of the Nov. 12, 2014, Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee ("Oversight Committee" or "the Committee") meeting without any changes.

**C. Zoo Update**

Teri Dresler, Oregon Zoo Interim Director, gave an update on the zoo director recruitment and the zoo budget. Metro issued an RFP and received 12 proposals from firms that can conduct a nationwide search for the new zoo director. A firm will be selected, and it is expected that work will start in earnest in about four weeks. Survey Monkey, an online survey tool, will be sent to all stakeholders, including the Oversight Committee, to get input on what is needed in a director, to help develop a sales piece for the recruitment. The recruitment is then expected to take four to six months. Ms. Dresler feels the zoo is really attractive, with Portland being a great place to live and the \$125 million bond being attractive as well. The final two to three candidates will participate in meet-and-greet gatherings for a few days in late summer, and the Committee will have an opportunity to participate.

The zoo submitted its budget request for fiscal year 2016, which starts on July 1, 2015. In preparing the budget, management looked at where the zoo had gaps in its resources. Some of these were pointed out by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) pre-inspection visit in 2014. The zoo had not kept up with the growth in attendance and zoo population over the last 10 years. The proposed budget will put the zoo in a good position to provide the best in animal welfare, guest experience, conservation education and fulfill the promises of the bond measure. This is part of the zoo's preparations to be ready to operate the newly built bond facilities. The budget requests will take four to five months to go through the Metro budget preparation cycle, and have the support of the Metro Chief Operating Officer and the Metro Council.

In addition, the zoo is preparing operations plans before opening the new facilities, and Ms. Dresler thanked the Oversight Committee for prompting the zoo to prepare the operations plans. She feels good about the conversations the Committee has been having with staff.

Bob, a new zoo orangutan, is just about to be moved onto exhibit.

Ms. Dresler also noted that the zoo plans to renovate Stellar Cove this summer, separate from the bond work, and is being careful to keep that work on schedule, so as not to clash with the beginning of construction on the nearby Education Center.

**D. Animal Welfare Research**

Nadja Wielebnowski, Oregon Zoo Conservation and Research Manager, gave a presentation on measuring animal welfare (a copy of which is included with the record) and the research being done at the zoo. The zoo's research is helping animal management in the wild, and is being incorporated into the designs for the new zoo habitats, to maximize animal welfare. Ms. Wielebnowski and David Shepherdson, Oregon Zoo Deputy Conservation Manager, have served on the AZA's animal welfare committee since it started in 2001, and Ms. Wielebnowski has served as the chair the past six years.

She clarified terms: "Animal rights" generally deals with the ethical treatment of animals, and is seen as a continuum from animals having no rights to having all the rights of humans. "Animal health" usually is focused on the physical condition. "Animal welfare" insures that the animals are doing well – physically, mentally and emotionally. Sharon Harmon noted that the 2013 session of

the Oregon Legislature changed Oregon law to recognize animals as sentient beings (ORS 167.305: "Animals are sentient beings capable of experiencing pain, stress and fear."), so Ms. Wielebnowski's group is ahead by already recognizing animal emotions.

One of the animal welfare implicit concepts is that of tradeoffs, that may involve some things that temporarily raise stress levels (such as transport or introductions to new animals, etc.), but ultimately have a greater benefit for the individual animal and the good of the species as a whole.

The zoo has been monitoring and collecting data on its elephants for more than 30 years, including 25 years of hormone data. One of the first zoos to have this long, continuous history of research, the Oregon Zoo has contributed to the active management of wild elephant herds in Asia. Elephant Lands includes what the zoo has learned from its years of research, and from the results of an AZA-wide study of elephants done 2010-2014 that included 40,000 samples (final results will be published in 2015-2016). Elephant Lands will include sand and a variety of substrates, substrate with which the elephants can interact, a complexity of spaces, high diversity of options and choices, and unpredictable food sources. The zoo's baseline data will enable staff to measure changes with the transition to Elephant Lands, and beyond as well.

#### **E. Recruitment of new Committee members for appointment in April 2015**

Heidi Rahn, bond program director, reviewed the recruitment of new members for the Oversight Committee, to replace four retiring members – Bob Tackett, Penny Serrurier, Deidra Krys-Rusoff and Carter MacNichol – who have served five years since the start of the Committee. This is their last meeting. She asked members to pass along the recruitment document she had sent them recently, and requested potential member names by February 20. The recruitment includes input from Metro's diversity committee, and the zoo bond staff is today distributing recruitment information at a Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business (MWESB) open house at Metro. The Metro Council is scheduled to appoint the new members at the Council meeting on April 9, 2015, at the zoo. At the same meeting, Chair Kabeiseman will present the Committee's annual report, and a tour of Elephant Lands construction will follow the meeting. Committee members are invited to attend the meeting, which starts at 2 p.m., and the tour after.

Metro Councilor Shirley Craddick presented certificates of appreciation to the four retiring members, although Mr. MacNichol was not in attendance. She thanked them for their years of service that have helped deliver all the bond projects to date on budget and on schedule. They helped fulfill the bond measure promise to provide oversight to honor the public's funds. She acknowledged each member and their diverse experiences and expertise they brought to the Committee. Scott Robinson, Metro Deputy Chief Operating Officer, also acknowledged additional contributions. The retiring members noted that they had enjoyed serving on the Committee that is well staffed and provided quick responses to requests.

#### **F. Committee Annual Report**

Members discussed the Committee's 2015 annual report preparation. Deidra Krys-Rusoff apologized for not convening the subcommittee on evaluating program progress and processes (**report item #1**), but explained that she had submitted a draft with her edits tracked from last year's version. She noted that Elephant Lands is 70 percent complete, and commended construction manager Jim Mitchell for the excellent job keeping it on schedule and on budget.

Members discussed how to handle reporting on the Remote Elephant Center (REC), since it was not a project listed in the ballot measure but the Metro Council committed to conducting a feasibility analysis of an offsite facility. Some members felt it was not in the purview of the Committee since it was not in the bond language; others felt it was good to provide historical context and reinforce that the REC was an addition to the bond projects if feasible, but not what the voters had approved. Some members expressed concern that the REC project may be too much for the limited bond staff to handle, and may detract from the work of the other bond projects. Other members thought it is Metro's responsibility to decide how to allocate resources for it. The Committee decided not to include it in the "Ongoing and New Bond Projects" section of the report, and instead move it to a new, separate section for ongoing program-wide work, along with Sustainability and MWESB. The Committee recommends that the Metro Council act swiftly to make a decision on the REC after the planned feasibility study is done. Councilor Craddick agreed that it will be a decision of the Council.

Ms. Rahn reported that due diligence work is being done on the REC project and Roslyn Lake site, and although it will be a challenge and a very busy year for the bond program, she is committed to getting the work done for a decision this year.

The Committee decided to leave MWESB as a separate section (as opposed to included in each project), to highlight the effort and work being done.

Ruth Shelly, who also serves as chair of the Washington Park Transportation Management Association, requested that the report include that the zoo added paid parking in 2014. She also suggested that the report include a paragraph about the significant progress made by the zoo Public Art Committee, on which she also serves, in selecting an artist from the more than 200 entries, as part of the zoo bond Percent-for-Art project.

Ms. Shelly also noted that it was amazing that the bond program had kept right on track despite the recent change in zoo executive leadership, and that it would be good to include in the report. She commended the staff. Mr. Robinson said the bond program reporting structure was intentionally designed to report to the Metro Deputy COO, separate from the zoo leadership, and that the recent history shows that that system has worked.

Chair Kabeiseman worked with Noah Bishop, Carter MacNichol and Daniel Morris on the **report draft item #2** dealing with the bond program finances. He reviewed the report draft, and noted concerns about the escalation of construction costs and the need for the bond program to continuously assess and plan for escalation in order to complete all the bond projects. Administrative and overhead costs are estimated to be 3.6 percent for the total bond program, as detailed in the complete memo report sent by Ms. Rahn. Since the memo was not received until 2015, the current annual report covering 2014 will say that the committee requested the information, and next year's 2015 report will include the information from the memo. Mike Schofield noted that the zoo bond program's administrative costs are reasonable given his experience with other public bond funded programs. Noah Bishop noted the need to be aware of operational costs of the new bond projects; he was satisfied with the staff analysis of operating cost projections and recommended that staff continue to prepare for and analyze operating impacts.

Committee members are to send their bio updates to Linnea Nelson, to be included in the report.

Ms. Krys-Rusoff will include the edits from the meeting and submit another draft report for the Committee's review. It is scheduled to be presented to the Metro Council on April 9, 2015.

**G. Monthly Project Updates – no discussion**

1. Elephant Lands
2. Education Center
3. Interpretive Experience Design Services
4. Percent-for-Art
5. Remote Elephant Center

**H. Program Status and Financial Information at a Glance – no discussion**

**I. Program Schedules – no discussion**

**J. Other**

Heidi Rahn reported that the special, bird-friendly, Ornalux glass windows for Elephant Lands are in transit on a boat from Germany, but delayed due to the Longshoremen's pending strike. The boat is at Philadelphia, and the contractor and staff are looking at alternative shipping solutions. Staff is also working with the zoo keepers, and they may still be able to move the elephants into forest hall in April without the glass, since the weather may be nice enough.

**K. Adjournment**

Chair Kabeiseman adjourned the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

**Upcoming 2015 meeting dates –Wednesdays, 3 to 5 p.m.:**

|               |                           |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| May 13, 2015  | Kalahari Room, Oregon Zoo |
| Sept. 9, 2015 | Skyline Room, Oregon Zoo  |
| Nov. 4, 2015  | Skyline Room, Oregon Zoo  |