



## Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee

Oregon Zoo – Skyline Room  
Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2016  
3 to 5 p.m.

Oregon Zoo Bond  
Citizens' Oversight  
Committee Meeting

Nov. 9, 2016

Minutes

### MINUTES

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

Ruth Shelly (Chair)  
Daniel Aja  
Noah Bishop  
Heidi Goertzen  
Susan Hartnett  
Deborah Herron (via speakerphone)  
Bill Kabeiseman  
Mickey Lee  
Jill Mellen  
Robyn K. Pierce  
Katherine A. Porras  
Mike Schofield  
Dick Stenson  
Christine L. Taylor

#### AFFILIATION

Portland Children's Museum  
Banfield Pet Hospital  
Bishop Bankruptcy Law, LLC  
Ferguson Wellman Capital Management  
Spectator Facilities and Development, City of Portland  
Walmart  
Bateman Seidel  
MPower Oregon  
Research Biologist  
Pierce, Bonyhadi & Associates  
Meyer Memorial Trust  
Gresham-Barlow School District  
Retired healthcare executive; community volunteer  
Miller Nash Graham & Dunn

#### MEMBERS ABSENT

Linda S. Craig  
Daniel Morris  
Kevin Spellman  
Tom Turnbull  
Karen Weylandt

#### AFFILIATION

Retired CPA; nonprofit treasurer  
Our Oregon  
Spellman Consulting, Inc.  
OpenSesame Inc.  
Providence Health & Services

#### GUESTS

None

#### AFFILIATION

#### ELECTED OFFICIALS AND STAFF

Shirley Craddick  
Caleb Ford  
Amanda Greenvoss  
Mark Loomis  
Jim Mitchell  
Don Moore  
Joel Morton  
Linnea Nelson  
Heidi Rahn  
Scott Robinson  
Marcia Sinclair  
Grant Spickelmier

Metro Councilor  
Metro Assistant Finance Director  
Oregon Zoo Conservation Action Program Coordinator  
Oregon Zoo Foundation Interim Director  
Oregon Zoo Bond Construction Manager  
Oregon Zoo Director  
Metro Senior Attorney  
Oregon Zoo Bond Program Coordinator  
Oregon Zoo Bond Program Director  
Metro Deputy Chief Operating Officer  
Oregon Zoo Marketing  
Oregon Zoo Education Curator

**A. Welcome / Introduction**

Ruth Shelly, chair of the Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens’ Oversight Committee Chair (“Oversight Committee” or “the Committee”), opened the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

**B. Committee membership**

Members and staff introduced themselves, including five new members appointed by the Metro Council Oct. 20, 2016:

Daniel Aja	Banfield Pet Hospital
Heidi Goertzen	Ferguson Wellman Capital Management
Jill Mellen	Research Biologist
Katherine A. Porras	Meyer Memorial Trust
Christi L. Taylor	Miller Nash Graham & Dunn

Metro Councilor Shirley Craddick presented a certificate of appreciation to Bill Kabeiseman, who is retiring from the Committee after serving the bond program for seven years since 2009 – two years on the Oregon Zoo Bond Advisory Group followed by five years on the Oversight Committee. Councilor Craddick thanked Mr. Kabeiseman for his sage advice and long service that contributed to the remarkable bond program accomplishments. The Committee’s oversight has helped the public feel confident in how the bond funds are being spent, and contributes to the public trust. (That trust helped lead to voters approving Measure 26-178 yesterday, renewing the levy that cares for Metro’s portfolio of parks, trails and natural areas.) Other members also acknowledged Mr. Kabeiseman’s collaborative approach and cogent arguments and indicated that he had been fundamental to the success of the program.

**C. Approval of Sept. 14, 2016, Oversight Committee meeting minutes**

Members approved the minutes of the Sept. 14, 2016, Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens’ Oversight Committee meeting.

**D. Zoo Update**

Don Moore, Oregon Zoo director, gave a zoo update. Just today, the zoo received a new mountain goat from the Calgary Zoo, and recently welcomed a male giraffe named “Buttercup” from the San Diego Zoo. Zoo staff are still mourning the loss of an eight-year old male giraffe, Bakari, who had long-term health issues and had to be euthanized yesterday. Sheri Horiszny, the zoo’s new deputy director of Living Collections who came from the San Diego Zoo, is an expert in giraffes.

Dr. Moore spoke about the “evolution of zoos” and the priorities for a modern zoo that focuses on animal welfare and conservation. He cited the four key priorities: 1) animal welfare, 2) visitors, 3) staff and 4) conservation and conservation education.

The zoo has 40 California condors, four of which are on exhibit at the zoo (the remainder are at the zoo’s offsite breeding facility in Clackamas County, the Jonsson Center for Wildlife Conservation). Recently one of the Oregon Zoo-raised male condors that now lives in the wild made history by having the first wild-hatched condor chick in more than a century to survive, leave its nest and soar among the majestic rock formations in Pinnacles National Park. Exposure to lead and micro-trash is still a problem for condors in the wild, and even that male parent has had to be captured each year and receive chelation therapy to remove lead from his blood.

In September, the zoo held an Integrated Conservation Action Plan collaborative workshop to develop a strategy for the zoo's conservation work. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service and other external partners participated. A summary of the workshop will be shared later.

Dr. Moore, Oregon Zoo Marine Life and North America Curator Amy Cutting, and others recently returned from a trip to Churchill, Manitoba, Canada, a human settlement where polar bears are visible in the wild. The trip was in collaboration with Polar Bears International on arctic conservation, and provided zoo staff with in-field experience with bears (they saw 18 polar bears in one day in their natural habitat) and education outreach training with PBI staff and others. They also visited the Assiniboine Zoo's award-winning polar bear exhibit "Journey to Churchill." Those experiences will help inform the design for the Oregon Zoo's Polar Passage project. The Oregon Zoo's research with polar bears is also helping to drive the Polar Passage design, to better demonstrate and communicate that research and how it is helping polar bears in the wild.

Dr. Moore invited members and their families to attend ZooLights on Monday, Nov. 21, 2016, when it is only open to Metro employees and their families. Staff will send an invitation.

#### **E. Oversight Committee Charter and Annual Report**

Chair Shelly reviewed the Committee charter, and the two main elements of the Committee's annual report to the Metro Council: 1) Program progress in implementing the bond measure, and 2) Project spending trends and current cost projections, and review of the annual independent financial audit of spending. Two subcommittees will be needed to prepare the report for each area. The report will cover activities through December 2016, and the subcommittees will need to draft their recommendations by Feb. 1, 2017, for review at the Committee meeting Feb. 8, 2017. Once finalized, the report will be presented to the Metro Council in March or April.

The Oversight Budget Subcommittee is currently reviewing cost projections, allocation of the remaining unallocated funds, and possible project modifications intended to account for increases in construction costs in excess of budget estimates. Members of that committee had discussed serving as the annual report "finances" subcommittee, since they are already reviewing the program finances. In addition, Heidi Goertzen and Katherine Porras agreed to serve on the annual report finances subcommittee. Susan Hartnett indicated that although she is on the Budget Subcommittee, she would not have time to work on the annual report.

Mickey Lee and Noah Bishop will participate on the "program progress" annual report subcommittee (Mr. Bishop volunteered to serve on either subcommittee). Others interested in volunteering can contact Chair Shelly, or she will contact members.

#### **F. Education Center Partnerships and Programming**

Grant Spickelmier, Oregon Zoo education curator, used a PowerPoint to report on the Education Center partnerships and programming (a copy of his presentation is included with the record). The Committee's 2016 annual report recommended that prior to the Education Center opening, such a report be given to the Committee. He focused on what is going to happen in the Education Center, rather than on the building itself. The theme for the Education Center is "Small things matter," and it is reflected in the various aspects of the programming. Over the past two years, the Education team has been revising the zoo educational curriculum. This began with the creation of Metro's environmental literacy framework, a guiding document for all of Metro's conservation education

programs. Using the tools in this framework, the zoo is preparing to launch with the opening of the Education Center all new school and informal camp programs designed to 1) expand knowledge of how environmental systems work, 2) build capacity for addressing environmental issues like habitat loss and climate change and, most importantly, 3) inspire people to act to make a better future for wildlife. The framework is connected to national education and science standards.

Mr. Spickelmeier reviewed the different parts of the building and grounds and the corresponding programming. The four classrooms include an early-childhood space, lab space that can be used for middle and high school students, and windows and garage doors that open to provide lots of light and a connection to the out-of-doors. Two outdoor tent pods will also provide learning space. Each year, 80,000 kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students visit the zoo, and many attend zoo classes, which meet state science standards. For the first year of the Education Center, the Oregon Zoo Foundation will be sponsoring every third-grade student in all Title I schools in the region, approximately 11,000 students, to participate in a zoo field trip and an interactive live animal classroom program presented at the zoo (ZooSchool). The new center will also accommodate the 3,500 students that attend zoo day camps, one of the largest day camps in the metropolitan area. The participants of ZooSnooze will now get to share evenings around a campfire at a fire pit next to the classrooms. These overnight events are often attended by Campfire Girls, Boy Scouts and church groups, and serve as a “portal” experience that may lead to attending zoo classes and other zoo programs.

With seating capacity for 150 people and state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment, Conservation Hall will work well for lectures and documentary screenings. The spring 2017 programming schedule for the space is full of events offered by partner organizations, and many other external partners are also interested in using the space. Since it is important for the space to fund itself, zoo Education will be sharing the space with zoo Catering. People attending events in Conservation Hall, will also be able to access the adjacent Nature Exploration Station (NESt), the main interpretive space. The sustainable features of the building will be evident and it will be a “building that teaches.” He showed examples of the interpretive exhibits for the insect zoo and turtle lab. Partner groups will be able to do presentations in the NESt, which will have AV equipment. A Wildlife Garden outside the NESt will have master gardeners talking to visitors, and show visitors how to create a healthy habitat to attract wildlife, even on a patio or balcony.

The Education Center will best reach its full potential by including other partner organizations. Many of those groups are interested to reach the zoo’s 1.6 million annual visitors, and the zoo’s visitors can meet those groups, hear their stories and access their resources. Metro Parks and Nature, an internal partner, will feature an oak savanna habitat exhibit in the NESt. Several past Nature in Neighborhoods grant winners will be highlighted as well, including Access Recreation, a group that monitors and reports on park and trail accessibility in the region, and Soul River, Inc., a nonprofit that uses fly fishing trips to connect kids exposed to gang violence with recovering military veterans. Metro Parks and Nature provided funding for an interactive map that will help zoo visitors locate the parks and natural areas that best suit their family and activities. Metro Property and Environmental Services funded the Wildlife Garden, led development of its interpretives and trains master gardener volunteers who will provide programming.

Amanda Greenvoss, zoo conservation action program coordinator, spoke about the community partners who are excited to be part of the Education Center. US Fish and Wildlife Service is

interested to share its wildlife conservation messaging with an urban audience and has hired a full-time person, Leah Schrodt, to be on staff at the Education Center. USFWS staff will also participate in other scheduled programs this spring. The Intertwine Alliance of more than 130 conservation organizations is another primary partner. It has helped spread the word about the center and hosts its annual summit at the zoo. Ms. Greenvoss displayed a long list of advisors and partners. More than 60 organizations are interested in having a presence at the Education Center, and 30 people attended a partner meeting last week. Not all partners want to be on grounds, but many do. She shared a list of different types of partner programming. Ms. Greenvoss encouraged members to contact her with ideas for other partners and programming ([Amanda.greenvoss@oregonzoo.org](mailto:Amanda.greenvoss@oregonzoo.org); 503-220-5757).

Mr. Spickelmier closed by sharing some of the inspiring personal letters written by teens that were placed in a time capsule that was buried next to the Education Center. They wrote about their hopes and dreams for wildlife and conservation, to be read by their grandchildren 50 years in the future.

### **G. Polar Passage**

Heidi Rahn, bond program director, discussed the progress on Polar Passage, the new polar bear habitat project, which is currently in the concept design phase. The team is working to complete schematic design, but is holding off on proceeding to design development until more work is done to bring the project within budget. They have already done significant value engineering. The new habitat may include two to three times more space, long-term flexibility, natural substrate, a maternity den separate from the other areas, and one of the most significant potential changes – saltwater instead of fresh water, to meet zoo recommendations for marine mammals. Interpretive elements will convey a conservation message and help visitors take action in response. The design will bring the zoo's research and animal management activities to the forefront and show how the zoo's work is helping polar bears in the wild. The project has a minimum goal of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design at the Silver level, and will have heating and cooling infrastructure tied into the geothermal system installed in Elephant Lands. The team is looking at re-using some of the existing rockwork and pool, which could be a cost savings.

Dr. Moore spoke about the Manitoba standards for polar bears – formally known as Manitoba, Canada's Polar Bear Protection Act. The standards establish the necessary minimum requirements of any facility that might want to receive an orphaned animal from Manitoba (Western Hudson Bay population/Churchill area). The regulations identify space, enrichment, water, animal care, and education requirements. These are important for designing Polar Passage so that it could qualify to receive polar bears from Canada, if available. In Churchill, Manitoba, polar bears in the wild that interact inappropriately and repeatedly with humans have had to be euthanized. Polar Passage could be a future home for these types of bears.

Dr. Moore noted that as marine mammals, the polar bears' eye and coat health is best served with access to saltwater. One third of the current project budget is for the saltwater life support system.

Members viewed a video simulation of Polar Passage built to a draft design, which when finalized will not necessarily include all of the elements shown.

One member asked about using some of the bond premium to further fund Polar Passage. Ms. Rahn explained that the project team is first working to align the design as much as possible with the current budget, and after that will address funding with the Oversight Budget Subcommittee.

Another member asked about plans for storage in Polar Passage. The design will include a walk-in freezer to store fish and avoid costly off-site storage currently in use. Amy Cutting, marine life and North America curator and lead polar bear staff, has reviewed and approved the plan for storage.

In response to a question about the project budget, Ms. Rahn clarified that \$16.5 million is for construction, out of the total project budget of \$22 million.

Chair Shelly reflected that Polar Passage will be a signature project of the new Oversight Committee “class” of members, and being involved from the beginning project intent, they can offer good guidance on the project.

#### **H. Monthly Project Updates**

Ms. Rahn reviewed the monthly project update reports:

1. **Education Center** – The project is progressing well, with the contractor working hard to open the café and restrooms for ZooLights 2016. The Education Center grand opening ceremony is planned for Thursday, March 2, 2017, and members will receive a save-the-date notice soon.
2. **Polar Passage** – The monthly update report may show a “caution” on next month’s report due to a potential budget shortfall.
3. **Interpretive Experience** – Interpretives work is wrapping up well and is on target. Before and after each project, the zoo does visitor surveys. Now visitors to Elephant Lands are being interviewed to see what they learned and what action was created by their viewing the exhibits. For the wayfinding project, signs and elements are currently being installed around the campus.
4. **Percent-for-Art** – The commissioned sculpture for the Education Center will be installed tomorrow, Nov. 10, and the four finalist artist teams for the Polar Passage art commission will be interviewed by the Oregon Zoo Public Art Advisory Committee on Nov. 18. Susan Hartnett is representing the Committee on OZPAAC and will participate in the interviews. The Regional Art and Culture Council is also assisting with the solicitation and selection process.

#### **I. Program Status and Financial Information at a Glance**

Ms. Rahn reviewed the summary financial statement, indicating that the bond program is on budget, with more than \$11 million unallocated. Some of that will be needed to cover staff and administrative costs. The Budget Subcommittee will be reviewing that before it is brought to the full Oversight Committee. The Subcommittee will be looking at project needs and cost escalation. No new projects are planned to be added.

The program will have one more bond sale that will be done in 2019 jointly with Metro Natural Areas, to share and save bond issuance costs. To date, Metro has received close to \$15 million in bond premiums, and expects to receive a premium again on the next bond sale. Metro receives these premiums in part because of its AAA rating from S&P and Aaa rating from Moody’s. It is rare to have such a good rating, and Metro works hard to attain it. Because Metro has a higher bond rating, Metro’s bonds represent a safe investment that return a good interest rate, and investors are confident in Metro’s ability to pay back the bonds. Several factors contribute to Metro’s good rating, including its diverse revenue base, low percent of debt capacity, successful bond programs and the existence of public oversight committees.

**J. Program Schedules**

Next month's report will show a revised schedule for Polar Passage, to accommodate the design and permitting, but the project is still on schedule to be completed in 2019. Typically major projects (projects of more than \$10 million) are taking six months for permitting with the City of Portland. Ms. Rahn thanked Susan Hartnett, who did some investigation of city code changes, and her information was helpful for the Polar Passage project.

Staff are working on updating the preschematic design for the Primates project, and may propose including demolition of the existing primate building.

**K. Open Discussion/Questions**

One member asked about the updates to the bond program Equity in Contracting Quarterly Report that was presented at the November Committee meeting. The next quarterly update to that report will be issued in January, and the Committee can discuss it at its meeting in February.

**L. Adjournment**

Chair Shelly adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

**Upcoming 2017 meeting dates –Wednesdays, 3 to 5 p.m.:**

Feb. 8, 2017 Skyline Room, Oregon Zoo  
May 10, 2017 Conservation Hall, Education Center, Oregon Zoo  
Sept. 13, 2017 Skyline Room, Oregon Zoo  
Nov. 8, 2017 Skyline Room, Oregon Zoo