



City of Albuquerque
Department of Arts and Culture

**ABQ BioPark Advisory Group
MEETING MINUTES
DRAFT**

Tuesday, October 1, 2024 4:00 - 5:30 pm

ABQ BioPark Zoo – Zoo Library

Members Present:

Colin Barnett

Mike Guier

Rachel Hawkins

Fred Whiteman – Jennings

Kristina Chong

Staff Present:

Matthew Peterson

Lynn Tupa

Public Present:

Sandy Barnett

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting called to order by Fred Whiteman – Jennings, 2nd by Kristina Chong.
- II. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Colin Barnett moved to approve Agenda, 2nd by Kristina Chong.
- III. Approval of the Minutes from July 9, 2024 meeting
 - a. Mike Guier asked to eliminate Section 7, subsection E.c. There has been an average increase from 1.4% from FY23.
 - b. Kristina Chong moved to approve Minutes with changes, 2nd by Colin Barnett.
- IV. Public Comment
 - a. No public comment.

V. Discussions and Presentations

- A. Fred Whiteman – Jennings suggested how best to interface with City Government and solicited suggestions on a path forward. Fred Whiteman – Jennings suggested the idea of reaching out to City Councilors to schedule walk-throughs of the ABQ BioPark with City Councilors. Rachel Hawkins inquired if this would be useful. Mike Guier willing to reach out to District 6 Councilor. Colin Barnett suggested to have three councilors, Director, and three board members to tour the City Councilors. Rachel Hawkins agreed to draft an email invite to City Councilors. Colin Barnett proposed “Working Group Tour with Director” for the purpose of highlighting the importance of the ABQ BioPark. Fred Whiteman-Jennings proposed the date of October 29, 2024 at Aquarium/Botanic Garden from 2 – 3:30 pm and November 21, 2024 at the Zoo from 2 – 3:30 pm. Fred Whiteman-Jennings suggested the purpose of the meeting with city councilors is to build relationships between City Councilors and the ABQ BioPark Advisory Group.
- B. Kristina Chong proposed the ABQ BioPark Advisory Group review the ABQ BioPark website.
- C. Fred Whiteman – Jennings offered to contact Harper Correria – Kuhn regarding her continued participation in the ABQ BioPark Advisory Group.

VI. Old Business

VII. Announcements/Staff Updates

A. Board Chair Announcements:

- None

B. New Board Members:

- None

C. Director Updates

- a. AZA Significant Achievement Award for Asia. Video application is linked here: [AZA Exhibit Award application video; Asia at the ABQ BioPark \(youtube.com\)](#)
- b. Lynn Tupa, Associate Director provided a recap of lessons learned and takeaways from the AZA Annual Conference.
- c. Construction Updates
 - i. Botanic Garden Event Pavilion is complete.
 - ii. Heritage Farm sneak peek on October 3, 2024 – October 13, 2024.
- d. The ABQ BioPark, with monetary and contractual support from the New Mexico BioPark Society is currently engaged in a Climate Action Planning process with the Verdis Group.
- e. Lynn Tupa provided an update on recent animal acquisitions.

- i. “Ben” the Andean Bear from Gladys Porter Zoo, is now in a new habitat at the ABQ BioPark and acclimating to in/out access.

VIII. New Business

- A. Colin Barnett suggested meetings should be in person, and not via Zoom.
- B. Group discussion about public outreach and contacting friends/family in an effort to recruit new members for the ABQ BioPark Advisory Group. Each member is to ask at least one person.

IX. Next Regular Meeting – January 7, 2025

- X. Adjourn – Mike Guier motion to adjourn, Colin Barnett 2nd.