



**CLARK PLANETARIUM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**Location: Virtual and In-Person Meeting**

**Thursday, May 16, 2024**

**Board attendance:**

Ahsan Iqbal-Chair  
Jim Brass-Vice Chair  
Madelaine Miller Anderson  
Jonathan Ebbeler  
James Karner  
Emily Lenhardt  
Bianca Lyon  
Andrea Garavito-Martinez  
Priscilla Hansen Neve  
Rod Parker  
Laurie Stringham

Marisol Perez Gonzalez  
Olga Siggins  
Tanasia Valdez

**Others Present:**

Kunbi Adekunle  
Richard Cox  
Jayceen Craven Walker  
Maureen Ford  
Duke Johnson  
Jason Sills  
Anna Swenson  
Anna Marie Tueller

**Board absent:**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME** at 12:35 p.m. by Ahsan Iqbal.
  - a. Ahsan reiterated that the Clark Planetarium Board will accept public comments regarding Clark Planetarium business in the following formats:
    - i. Written comments may be submitted to Clark Planetarium Board of Directors no later than two hours prior to the meeting start on the day of the meeting.
    - ii. Verbal comments of less than two minutes presented directly to the board will be accepted at the beginning of the Clark Planetarium Board meeting.
  - b. Ahsan initiated role call and had each person share what they did for the aurora sighting that happened the previous Friday and Saturday.





## II. CURRENT BUSINESS

- a. Ahsan asked for a motion to approve the April 2024 minutes. Rod Parker moved for approval and Jim Brass seconded. The minutes were approved by the Board.
- b. Ahsan discussed the board member applicant status. There are 7 open slots this year and more applicants than slots. Interviews are ongoing and once they are finished, a ranked list of candidates will be sent over to the mayor's office. It will likely take a couple of months for the process to be completed and the new board members approved. It is anticipated that this process will be completed by the August 2024 board meeting.
- c. Ahsan reminded everyone that nominations for Board Chair and Vice-Chair will close soon. Those interested should send the information to Ahsan and he will present it at the next meeting.
- d. Discussion moved forward about the current board member candidates and that there are 9 applicants in total. Rod pointed out that of all the current applicants, there is only one woman. He acknowledged that more work needs to be done during board member recruitment to ensure that the board has equal representation. The Board agreed with this goal.

## III. PLANETARIUM REPORT

- a. Financials. Kunbi Adekunle explained that the April numbers continue to look good across most areas. There has been a slight decrease in both the Planet Fun Store as well as building rentals. The difference in the store can be directly attributed to not currently having a Store Buyer. Plans are in place to increase the number of building rentals and she thanked Ahsan for renting the building for an event. Ahsan expressed his happiness with how well his rental event transpired and encouraged other Board Members to consider it for themselves as well as others they know. The Planetarium is currently trending 15% year over year.
- b. Emily Lenhardt shared her involvement with the International Cohort of STEM/Astronomy Education Practitioners and Researchers which is a two-year commitment. This group is working to create a global network of astronomy education research, communication, and culture. She has also been able to obtain a small grant to increase astronomy knowledge and related skills to girls in rural areas. Emily will be working with Jayceen on this project.
- c. Strategic planning. Jason gave an update on the Strategic Planning Progress. The timeline originally given has been pushed back due to scheduling difficulties with staff members who are participating in the cohort groups. It will take approximately 5-6 weeks to finish the Objectives and Strategy Map portions of the strategic planning process. While this is happening, the leadership team is working on the 10-year capital plan. Doing it with a 10-year timeframe means it

coincides with the upcoming Olympics and new NHL team and how those will impact choices the Planetarium is making now. Laurie suggested the Board consider how we can work with the intended new facilities and plans associated with the NHL. Jason agreed that the Planetarium needs to consider how to stay visible and relevant as both a destination location as well as being part of an area that will have guests spending time nearby. Jason and Duke brought up the fact that the Planetarium is getting bids with consultants to create plans for fundraising efforts and grant writing. This should be finalized by 06/14/24. Also, the website has had a soft reset which is a noticeable improvement on the old website. It is now cleaner and more user-friendly.

- d. James Karner gave a presentation about The Antarctic Search for Meteorites Program that has been supported by NASA for about 40 years. This program seeks out meteorites in Antarctica and it is the world's foremost supplier of extraterrestrial material for scientific study. James discussed the challenges and procedures of these annual trips and how important they are for the science and knowledge gained from them.
- e. Community Programs. Anna discussed the Community Programs numbers for April. In April, there were 26 different programs serving 4,968 participants. This included the May the Fourth Be With You event, which was the most highly attended of any other year it has been hosted at Clark Planetarium.



- f. Duke let the Board Members know that the new 400 West space looks to be finished sometime in July. Bill Maughan, facilities manager, will present an update at the next board meeting.

#### IV. CLOSING REMARKS

- a. Ahsan adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

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