

**CLARK PLANETARIUM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

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

**Thursday, June 19, 2025**

**Board attendance:**

Rod Parker  
Mike Maxwell  
Joe Bauman  
Ken Gritton  
Emily Lehnardt  
Priscilla Hansen Neve  
Shawn O’Kane  
Michelle Schmitt  
Tanasia Valdez

**Board, absent:**

Madelaine Miller Anderson  
Andrea Garavito-Martinez  
Bob Moore  
Patrick Neville

**Others Present:**

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME at 12:40 p.m. by Rod Parker.**

- a. Rod Parker asked the Board members if any of them had received public written or verbal comments to be presented to the Board. None were brought forth.
- b. Rod and Duke Johnson shared the sad news of the death of a previous Board Chair, Ahsan Iqbal. Rod and Duke both expressed their appreciation and respect for all the work Ahsan had done supporting Clark Planetarium as well as his work supporting various groups in the community. They also reflected on how gentle, kind and optimistic Ahsan was; he will be missed.

**II. REVIEW OF MINUTES**



- a. Rod pointed out a correction for the May minutes. In section 3. Current Business, subsection a, the minutes should read “He gave a reminder of the plan to have the new members in place at the August meeting.”

### III. PLANETARIUM BUSINESS & DISCUSSION

- a. Kunbi discussed the Planetarium’s financials.
  - i. May was one of the best months the planetarium has had since January. While Dome shows, memberships and the IMAX® shows were down, the building rentals and exhibit sales outperformed by over 100%. Overall, there has been a 22% increase from last year. Cumulatively from January to May, there has been a 3% increase, even with the ticket sales being lower than last year.
- b. Richard Cox shared the updated Attendance and Ticket Trends charts comparing 2024 to 2025. Comparing May of this year to last May shows a 6% guest increase with only a 1% decrease in ticket sales. The planetarium is actively looking for ways to convert the number of visitors to ticket purchases. Richard also shared the average occupancy for the new IMAX® *Shark Kingdom* is doing better than the most recent 3 science shows in both the IMAX® and Dome theatres.
  - i. Rod shared his opinion that the model shark currently in the planetarium lobby should be called ‘Duke Jaws-son’. His humorous comment was highlighting the Name the Shark campaign and Shark Summer events that

the Planetarium is hosting in conjunction with the new *Shark Kingdom* movie.

- c. Richard stated that the newest laser Dome show, coming July 5<sup>th</sup>, will be Laser Maestro presents Rush. This will be the first time Clark Planetarium has done an original laser show production. Previously, the laser shows were purchased in a package and then modified. There will be tracking in place to see how this original show compares to the previous modified laser shows.
- i. This led to a discussion of how Clark Planetarium distributes shows and what that means for the future.

#### IV. **COMMUNITY PROGRAMS UPDATE**

- a. Jason Sills gave the Community Programs update for the month of May. There were 38 programs with 3,885 participants.
- b. Jason discussed the Planetarium's large presence at the Salt Lake County Employee Day. The activities at that event included a rocket launch challenge, exhibits brought from the Planetarium, telescopes, and space trivia. It was the most well-attended Employee Day with about 1,650 participants from across all agencies.

#### V. **MISCELLANEOUS**

- a. Jason added that NASA will be at the planetarium on June 24, along with Northrop Grumman for a special event. This will be a presentation on the Artemis II mission and it's connection to Utah. The event was sold out

within about a day and will feature an astronaut, tabling activities, and other opportunities for the guests to interact with NASA.

## VI. CLOSING REMARKS

- a. Rod pointed out that there was now a quorum available to approve the minutes from May and reminded everyone of the one update to the minutes that should show the new board members be in place by the August meeting. He then asked for a motion to approve the minutes for May. Priscilla Hansen Neve made the motion to approve them, and Emily Lehnardt seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the Board.
- b. Rod then gave an update about the open spots on the Board. There are numerous applicants and interviews are ongoing but challenging to schedule due to summer vacations. The hope is to have them in place by August but it may go into fall.
- c. Rod adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.