

CLARK PLANETARIUM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**Location: Virtual and In-Person Meeting****Thursday, September 18, 2025****Board attendance:**

Rod Parker, Chair
Mike Maxwell, Vice Chair
Madelaine Miller Anderson
Joe Bauman
Bob Moore
Priscilla Hansen Neve
Patrick Neville
Shawn O’Kane
Natalie Pinkney, Council member
Michelle Schmitt
Tanasia Valdez

Board, absent:

Ken Gritton

Emily Lehnardt

Andrea Garavito-Martinez

Others Present:

Kunbi Adekunle
Richard Cox
Maureen Ford
Duke Johnson
Bill Maughan
Scott Sherrick
Laurie Stringham, Council member
Anna Swenson
Anna Marie Tueller
Jayceen Craven Walker
Craig Wangsgard

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME at 12:34 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.

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES & CURRENT BUSINESS

- a. Rod questioned the use of the phrase “The Community Needs Assessment will be done around January 2026” in the August 2025 minutes (Section II.c.i). After discussing the Community Needs Assessment part of the Strategic Master Plan, it was decided to amend the August 2025 minutes



with “The Community Needs Assessment step is in process and expected to be completed around January 2026.” (Section II.c.i)

- b. Rod asked for a vote to approve the August minutes. Shawn O’Kane motioned for approval and Natalie Pinkney seconded. The August minutes were approved.
- c. The status of the Board Member recruitment process was discussed. Currently, the new incoming board members are waiting for County approval. The approvals have been slower in coming than historically, due to a new process in the County. The new Board members are expected to be at the October meeting.
- d. The Community Needs Assessment and Strategic Master Plan is continuing and Board members will be meeting with the consulting company the first part of October

III. ANNUAL PUBLIC BOARD GUIDELINES REVIEW

- a. Craig Wangsgard, Senior Deputy District Attorney, gave a brief overview of the Public Meetings Act and how it affects the Clark Planetarium Advisory Board.

IV. PLANETARIUM BUSINESS & DISCUSSION

- a. Kunbi Adekunle discussed the August financials, which showed the Planetarium doing well. There was a 10% increase in Dome shows from 2024 to 2025 and other areas are holding steady. The total monthly earned

income was up by 1% and the January to August cumulative was up about 6% this year compared to the same time in 2024.

- b. Richard Cox noted the continued trend of increased guest attendance (up 7%) and ticket sales (down 1%). The Planetarium is on track to approach 700,000 guests in the building for 2025. He also talked about the popularity of the laser shows and how the Planetarium is moving forward with original laser show creation. Richard noted that the Planetarium puts the laser shows into time slots that will not conflict with shows that are in line with the educational mission of Clark Planetarium.
- c. Richard also shared that Clark Planetarium won an award at the GSCA (Giant Screen Cinema Association) conference. The award was Best Film Launch by a Theatre for the Clark Planetarium Shark Summer Event which showcased the IMAX® *Shark Kingdom* film.
- d. Jayceen Craven Walker shared her trip visiting JPL in California and what a positive experience it was. She was joined by other NASA Solar System Ambassadors from Clark Planetarium. While the group was able to spend time enjoying all the information gathered from the tours of the JPL facilities, it also supports the educational mission of Clark Planetarium.
- e. Bill Maughan described and explained the progress of the 2025 capital projects. These include painting on all floors of the Planetarium, upgrading the concessions area, a new layout and register counter in the gift shop,

upgrades to the lighting in the Dome Theatre and major upgrades to the main elevator.

- i. The main elevator will be going out of service on October 6, 2025 and is expected to be finished after approximately 3 ½ weeks.

V. COMMUNITY PROGRAMS UPDATE

- a. Anna Swenson presented the Community Programs update for the month of August. There were 34 programs with 1,975 participants; she noted that August is the slowest month of the year due to school starting. Anna also mentioned the next telescope class happening in October as well as the Planetarium participating in FanX again this year.

VI. CLOSING REMARKS

- a. Rod adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.