

CLARK PLANETARIUM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Location: Virtual and In-Person Meeting

Thursday, October 16, 2025

Board attendance:

Rod Parker, Chair
Mike Maxwell, Vice Chair
Madelaine Miller Anderson
Joe Bauman
Andrea Garavito-Martinez
Ken Gritton
Emily Lehnardt
Bob Moore
Priscilla Hansen Neve
Patrick Neville
Natalie Pinkney, Council member
Michelle Schmitt
Tanasia Valdez

Board, absent:

Shawn O’Kane

Others Present:

Justin Anderson
Robin Chalhoub
Richard Cox
Maureen Ford
Duke Johnson
Robert Sampson
Jason Sills
Anna Swenson
Jayceen Craven Walker

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME at 12:33 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 asked for a vote to approve the September minutes. Bob Moore motioned for approval and Mike Maxwell seconded. The September minutes were approved.
- b. The status of the Board Member recruitment process was discussed. The new incoming board members are still waiting for County approval. The



hope is for the process to be finalized so the new members can be at the November meeting.

- c. The Community Needs Assessment findings were shared with the Board.

These findings were aggregated from all the interviews the consultants have had with key individuals, including the Advisory Board.

III. AURORA & CONFERENCE REPORT

- a. Emily Lehnardt shared her experience in Fairbanks, Alaska capturing aurora borealis.

IV. PLANETARIUM BUSINESS & DISCUSSION

- a. Jason Sills introduced Justin B. Anderson, the new Communications and Development Supervisor. Justin then shared his extensive work experience in the nonprofit world and his excitement in joining Clark Planetarium at this pivotal point in its growth.
- b. Jason then discussed the September financials, which showed the Planetarium doing well. While there were some areas that showed less growth, there were others that continued upward trends. This included the year over year September guest increase of 2% and ticket increase of 21%.
- c. Jason mentioned the major elevator upgrade that is currently happening and the concessions upgrades. Both projects are expected to be finished by the end of October.
- d. Duke Johnson shared that a Clark Planetarium staff member was recognized with the Marv Tolman Award. Jayceen Craven Walker received the lifetime

award for her decades of impactful work with elementary science education in Utah.

- e. Jason updated the Board on the ASTC and GSCA conferences. Clark Planetarium now gets featured in a prominent location during the ASTC which helps to share the exhibits that the Planetarium takes there each year.
- f. Jason explained possible upcoming films to be shown in both the Dome and the IMAX theatres.
 - i. Discussion about new dome theatre technologies, such as COSM screens, followed. It was pointed out that LED screens are the new and upcoming technology that will make a significant difference to the guest experience.
- g. Jason outlined the 2026 plan for Planetarium show openings and themes. These include the world premiere of Lost Wolves of Yellowstone in the IMAX as well as plans for a May sci-fi month in addition to the recurring May the Fourth event.

V. COMMUNITY PROGRAMS UPDATE

- a. Anna Swenson presented the Community Programs update for the month of September. There were 25 programs with 5,477 participants. Activities included the Giant Pumpkin Palooza in The Gateway and FanX. She pointed out that the volunteer program continues to work well and that it just hit



over 1,500 hours logged. There are currently 33 active volunteers ranging in ages from 16 to 89 years old.

VI. CLOSING REMARKS

- a. Rod adjourned the meeting at 1:43 p.m.

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