

CLARK PLANETARIUM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Location: Virtual and In-Person Meeting

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Board attendance:

Rod Parker, Chair
Mike Maxwell, Vice Chair
Joe Bauman
Ken Gritton
Rob Gonzalez
Emily Lehnardt
Gina McBride
Daniel Mendoza
Bob Moore
Patrick Neville
Shawn O’Kane
Michelle Schmitt

Andrea Garavito-Martinez
Priscilla Hansen Neve
Natalie Pinkney, Council member
Tanasia Valdez

Others Present:

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

Board, absent:

Madelaine Miller Anderson

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.
- i. Bob Moore shared that he had spoken with the Dean of Astronomy from a Canadian higher education institution. This individual had heard good things about Clark Planetarium. It was a welcome exchange that highlighted the broader, global, audience of the Planetarium.

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES & CURRENT BUSINESS



- a. Rod asked for a vote to approve the October minutes. Bob motioned for approval and Shawn O’Kane seconded. The October minutes were approved.
- b. The three new Board members were welcomed, and introductions were made by everyone.
 - i. The new members are Rob Gonzalez (L3 Harris), Gina McBride (Northrop Grumman), and Daniel Mendoza (University of Utah)

III. EDUCATION REPORT

- a. Jason Trump shared an update from the Education Department. In the 2025-26 school year, thus far, they have provided 465 presentations and seen over 12,000 students on outreach while also having over 10,000 student and 2,000 teacher experiences during in-building field trips. The Education Department has also been working to provide better experiences for special education and youth in crisis students. Additionally, they have been conducting professional development classes individually as well as in collaboration with the Natural History Museum of Utah.

IV. PLANETARIUM BUSINESS & DISCUSSION

- a. Kunbi Adekunle shared the October financials, which included an increase in the Planet Fun store. Concessions did see a decrease but this is because it was closed for upgrades for over a month – it is now open and doing well.
- b. Jason Sills talked about the continued trend of increased visitation with a decrease in ticket sales. He also shared plans for many upcoming shows for

2025 as well as those coming in 2026. These include *Laser Trans-Siberian Orchestra*, a planned new laser show for New Years, a number of special engagement films in both the IMAX® and Dome Theatres, and the world premiere of *Lost Wolves of Yellowstone* coming to the IMAX® in January 2026.

- c. Jason gave an update on the Community Needs Assessment. The consulting group will next be running focus groups of individuals already familiar with the Planetarium as well as others who aren't already regular guests.
- d. Jayceen Craven Walker discussed the upcoming legislative board break and family night. The break will be staffed only by the Board members while the family night will be held at Clark Planetarium with Board members joining staff to welcome legislators and their families to the Planetarium.

V. COMMUNITY PROGRAMS UPDATE

- a. Anna Swenson presented the Community Programs update for the month of October. There were 35 programs with 3,749 participants. She pointed out the opportunities that the Volunteer Program offers individuals and how beneficial it is for the Planetarium and the community at large.

VI. CLOSING REMARKS

- a. Rod adjourned the meeting at 2:07 p.m.