

CLARK PLANETARIUM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Location: Virtual and In-Person Meeting

Thursday, April 20, 2023

Board attendance:

Bianca Lyon
Ahsan Iqbal
Rod Parker
Jim Brass
Marisol Perez Gonzalez
Julia Kamenetsky
Madelaine Andersen
Jonathan Ebbeler
Ulrich Rassner
Jim Karner

Board, absent:

Jordan Hansen
Michelle Love-Day
Olga Siggins
Laurie Stringham
Tanasia Valdez

Others Present:

Duke Johnson
Jason Sills
Anna Marie Tueller
Kunbi Adekunle
Joe Stohel
Richard Cox
Anna Swenson
Andrea Doubek
Jayceen Craven Walker

- I. **CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME** at 12:36 p.m. by Bianca Lyon.
 - a. Bianca Lyon 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**





- a. Bianca asked for a motion to approve the minutes for March. Rod made the motion to approve them, and Ahsan seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the Board.

III. CURRENT BUSINESS

- a. Bianca updated the board on a Zoom meeting held last week. It was a program committee meeting discussing opportunities for the Clark Planetarium to expand its reach to different areas within the county and different communities throughout the county. Attendants included Bianca, Michelle, Marisol, Tanasia, and Anna. A spreadsheet was started that inventories the Planetarium's current efforts and is also open to adding other ideas or areas. She asked the Board to please pass on any thoughts or ideas they might have.
- b. Bianca mentioned that the time of year for Board leadership changes is coming up. Her position as chair ends in July. Positions to be considered are Chair and Vice Chair. If any of the Board members are interested, please let her know.
- c. Salt Lake County District Attorney, Craig Wangsgard gave the Board a presentation on the Open Meetings Act, and how to conduct the Board meetings within the scope of that act.

IV. PLANETARIUM REPORT

- a. Kunbi discussed the Planetarium's financials.
 - i. Register receipts were up 27% over last year. Revenue from dome shows was over \$82,000, which is higher than the last couple of years. Memberships were

also up. (Whoo-hoo!) The store brought in over \$120,000 and concessions brought in over \$27,000. Distribution sold several dome shows to other planetariums, which amounted to over \$10,000. The Planetarium sold a little over 31,000 tickets. We opened two new shows: “Backyard Wilderness 3D,” and “Black Hole, First Picture.” Total earned revenue is over \$700,000. The historic highs we see are attributed to spring break, and the fact that the weather was cold outside. March was a busy month.

- ii. Anna Marie said that Clark Planetarium continues to hire new staff. Mark Miller was hired as the GET manager and David Black was hired as an Education Specialist. Other full-time positions still open include a Graphic/Media Artist. Temporary staff positions include a Data Manager, Dome Technicians, and GET team members. Duke mentioned that the number of staff has doubled since he started as director a year ago.
- iii. Duke Johnson touched upon the upcoming Gala fundraiser. Sterling Poulson has agreed to be our host for the live auction portion of the event. Jason Sills noted that our theme for the evening is “Through Time and Space.” Not only does this refer to the James Webb telescope, but it also speaks to the 20th anniversary of the Planetarium. This relates to not only where we have been in the past, but where we want to be in the future. We are not just a museum with wonderful theaters, but we are now taking telescopes and demonstrations out to the people. The Gala will be at the Cosm Experience

center, a place to experience a planetarium dome in a way that you've never seen before. There will be a cocktail hour, dinner, and a presentation by Duke, followed by a lecture from Scott Willoughby, our keynote speaker. Early bird rate for tickets is \$150 until the week before when they will go up to \$200.

- iv. Jason said that Phil Plait will be giving a lecture Friday evening, May 5th at the Planetarium. We are partnering with the King's English where he will be signing books on May 6th, before the Gala.

V. COMMUNITY PROGRAMS UPDATE

- a. Anna Swenson gave an update on Community Programs through March. The month's numbers were well above the numbers of the previous months' events.
- b. Community Programs restarted the Star Party events. Anna also gave a rundown of the events for the Full STEAM Ahead week. These include a presentation and telescopes at a Salt Lake Bees game (May 2), a lab with Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Utah (May 3), a Stars Wars Day with FanX and Alpine Garrison (May 4). The Alpine Garrison will have spectacular professional level costumes and real robots wandering around the Planetarium and FanX will be judging a costume contest. Next, Phil Plait will give a lecture Friday evening (May 5) and have a signing at King's English Bookstore Saturday afternoon (May 6).
- c. Jason gave a shoutout to the Planetarium staff for the amazing work they are doing for the Gala and for Full STEAM ahead. He also mentioned that the



Planetarium was building great partnerships were with such organizations as FanX, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, and the Salt Lake Bees.

- d. Duke mentioned another exciting thing for the Planetarium this fall. There is a sample return mission from NASA that will be bringing back samples from asteroid Bennu as part of the OSIRIS-Rex mission. We are excited to host NASA staff as well as members of the Federal delegation, who may be in attendance for the event. More on that as it develops.

VI. CLOSING REMARKS

- a. Rod motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jonathan seconded it. Bianca Lyon adjourned the meeting at 1:28 pm.