

CLARK PLANETARIUM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Location: Virtual and In-Person Meeting

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Board attendance:

Bianca Lyon, Chair
Ahsan Iqbal, Vice Chair
Madelaine Anderson
Jim Brass
Jonathan Ebbeler
Andrea Garavito-Martinez
Jordan Hansen
Julia Kamenetsky
Jim Karner
Emily Lenhart
Rodney Parker
Tanasia Valdez

Board, absent:

Marisol Perez Gonzalez
Michelle Love-Day
Ulrich Rassner
Olga Siggins

Others Present:

Kunbi Adekunle
Robin Chaloub
Richard Cox
Jayceen Craven Walker
Maureen Ford
Duke Johnson
Joey McNamee
Misty Morris
Bentley Pistorius
Mike Sheehan
Joe Stohel
Laurie Stringham
Anna Marie Tueller
Andrea Doubek

- I. **CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME** at 12:32 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 January. Ahsan made the motion to approve them, and Emily seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the Board.

III. CURRENT BUSINESS

- a. Update on the nominations for the Board leadership: new leadership is needed for the Board as of July 2023. A motion for a new chair and vice chair will be necessary during the June meeting since the board does not meet in July. A vote will be held in August for a new chair and vice chair. Ahsan Iqbal, Jim Brass, and Rodney Parker each expressed interest in Board leadership positions either during the meeting or shortly after.

IV. PLANETARIUM REPORT

- a. Reactions to the Gala held May 6, 2023. The Board was unanimous in its praise for the 2023 Clark Planetarium gala. Bianca said it was amazing and well done everybody. Laurie Stringham especially enjoyed the speaker, Scott Willoughby, who served as the vice president and program manager at Northrop Grumman for the James Webb Space Telescope. Board members also mentioned how incredible the Cosm dome screen was. Duked thanked everyone who supported the gala and everyone who attended. It was an amazing experience for all.
- b. Mike Sheehan and Bentley Pistorious gave an update on the Las Vegas Toy Conference they attended. They presented various items that the Planetarium was considering stocking in the Planet Fun Store.

c. Kunbi discussed the Planetarium's financials.

i. The Planetarium had an approximate 4.5% increase over this time last year.

Attendance was up about 10% January-April over this time last year. Overall, we have bounced back from the pandemic, and we are up 22% from 2019, and 25% over last year, which is very impressive. All together, we are right on target for the year.

ii. Anna Marie mentioned that we had hired David Black as an education specialist. He is finishing the year out with his current job to work with his students and will be joining us on June 6. We have a Graphic Design merit position open. Other positions open include part time positions for data management, dome technicians, and Get team members.

iii. Andrea Doubek gave an update on Marketing and Development. Graphics specs are out to the vendor for covering the façade of the new Planetarium space. She mentioned that we have modified the sustainer program, which is now called the Constellation Club. The levels have changed, including new \$2,500 tier. She also went over the gala and the work that went into it. It was a huge success. We were graced by Mayor Jenny Wilson's presence at our gala. It's not often that she makes it to galas, so we were really, really excited that she was able to join us for the evening. Mayor Wilson shared some wonderful stories about bringing her own children to the planetarium and emphasized that the Clark Planetarium is a valuable part of our community. Director Duke



Johnson gave a marvelous history of both Hansen and Clark Planetariums in commemoration of Clark's twentieth anniversary. The live auction raised over \$8,000 and Fund a Field Trip raised over \$4,000. The Opportunity Drawing raised over \$3,500. The event total for the Gala was \$73,458. Cosm's in kind donation of \$20,000 boosted that total to \$93,458. She thanked all the people who donated items to it.

- iv. Misty gave an update on Community Programs through June. They had 25 programs in April, with 4,293 participants. This is up considerably from 2,909 participants in March. May also included the week-long "Full STEAM Ahead" anniversary celebration of Clark's twentieth anniversary, which had 1,736 participants. She mentioned that the Planetarium has a new partner with FanX, who help celebrate Star Wars' May the Fourth celebration. FanX has also offered us a 2,000 square foot room to use during the convention itself.
- v. Duke mentioned the Planetarium's participation with NASA in September on the sample return mission of OSIRIS-REx in the west desert.

V. CLOSING REMARKS

- a. Jordan motioned to adjourn the meeting. Rodney seconded it. Bianca Lyon adjourned the meeting at 1:37 pm.