



## CLARK PLANETARIUM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Location: Virtual and In-Person Meeting

Thursday, June 15, 2023

### Board attendance:

Bianca Lyon, Chair  
Jim Brass  
Jonathan Ebbeler  
Marisol Perez Gonzalez  
Jim Karner  
Emily Lehnardt  
Rod Parker  
Olga Siggins  
Laurie Stringham

Julia Kamenetsky  
Michelle Love-Day  
Ulrich Rassner  
Tanasia Valdez

### Others Present:

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

### Board, absent:

Ahsan Iqbal, Vice Chair  
Madelaine Anderson  
Andrea Gravito-Martinez  
Jordan Hansen

- I. **CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME** at 12:42 p.m. by Bianca Lyon.
  - a. Bianca 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 May. Jim made the motion to approve them, and Rod seconded it. The motion was approved by the Board.
- III. **CURRENT BUSINESS**



- a. Update on the nominations for Board leadership: Ahsan, currently Vice-Chair, has formally expressed interest in becoming Chair. So far, no one else has expressed interest in the position. Jim Brass has expressed interest in becoming the Vice Chair. We are also considering a new position to be added to the Board to advance the Planetarium's Strategic Plan. We would create a position that would be a Chair of Strategic Initiatives. Rod has expressed his interest in serving in a greater capacity to help the planetarium meet its strategic goals. He would be the "tip of the spear," but the Board would all have a role to play in helping with that process.
- b. Bianca made the announcement that there won't be a Board meeting in July. We will reconvene in August, where we will hold official elections for the Clark Planetarium Board.

#### IV. PLANETARIUM REPORT

- a. Kunbi discussed the Planetarium's financials.
  - i. In May, we had an overall 15% decrease over last year. We attribute that to the nice weather. There was also a lot of flooding, so foot traffic was down. Overall, we are still trending higher than this time last year. We're about \$80,000 higher than budgeted revenues for the year, which is good.
  - ii. Anna Marie mentioned that we still have a Graphic Design merit position open. Our Education Manager just resigned, so we'll be posting for that position as well.

- iii. Duke mentioned that the Planetarium has been working toward next year's budget with the County. It has become apparent is that there are expenses that we've not had before, and a lot of them are going to be ongoing for a while. We've had significantly increased indirect costs from the County, we'll need to operate the new space on 400 West, and we're moving toward giving our part-time staff what could be considered a living wage of \$15/hour. Currently, our lowest paid positions are at \$13.50/hour and will soon be \$14/hour. We wanted to make sure that the Board was aware that, in trying to balance the budget, we're proposing to add a \$1 increase to the price of our show tickets. The Board was supportive of the price increase and backed the effort to raise the wage to \$15/hour.
- iv. Key upcoming conferences are the Stars for All regional US Planetarium Conference June 20-24, and ASTC at Discovery Place, Charlotte, NC, from October 7-10.
- v. Duke went over the Planetarium's involvement with NASA's PUNCH (Polarimeter to UNify the Corona and Heliosphere) Outreach mission. He presented fascinating images and clips of consortium participants working in Chaco Canyon, New Mexico, where research is happening on ancient sun watching techniques. One of the goals of the Outreach mission is to produce an interactive planetarium show that can then be distributed.

- vi. Jason mentioned that the new window wraps were up for the new space on 400 West, and construction is happening inside.
- vii. Anna Swenson gave an update on Community Programs. They had 27 programs in May, with 3,167 participants. The team is building up momentum towards the annular solar eclipse happening in October, as well as the total solar eclipse happening next April. They are working with South Jordan City to create some fun activities before one of their movies in the Moonlight series, Apollo 13. Ongoing programs were continuing.

**V. CLOSING REMARKS**

- a. Bianca Lyon adjourned the meeting at 1:31 pm.