

# OAKLAND COUNTY ZOOLOGICAL AUTHORITY

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Jennifer M. Grieco,  
Secretary

*Brandon Kolo, Chairperson*

Alex Cooper  
Millie Hall  
John Draper II

July 1, 2021

Chairperson Kolo called the meeting of the Oakland County Zoological Authority to order at 9:15 a.m., in the Ford Education Center Conference Room of the Detroit Zoo, 8450 W. Ten Mile Road, Royal Oak, Michigan

## **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Brandon Kolo; Jennifer Grieco; Gretchen Parks (Alternate), Alex Cooper

## **MEMBERS ABSENT WITH NOTICE:**

Millie Hall, John Draper II

## **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Ross Gavin, Administrative Assistant to Elected Officials, Oakland County Treasurer's Office; Patti Dib, Chief of Staff, Oakland County Board of Commissioners; Ron Kagan, Chief Executive Officer, Detroit Zoo

## **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Mr. Kagan requested that the Section titled, "Update from the Zoo," of the March 18, 2021 minutes, last paragraph, second-to-last sentence, be amended, as follows:

~~There will be~~ **Some of the** 1,100 volunteers **will be** coming back to the Zoo at the end of March.

Grieco moved approval of the minutes from March 18, 2021, as amended. Seconded by Cooper.

Motion carried.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairperson Kolo indicated that the Treasurer's Report would be moved up on the agenda before Public Comment. There were no objections.

Grieco moved approval of the agenda, as amended. Seconded by Cooper.

Motion carried.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ross Gavin, Administrative Assistant to Elected Officials, Oakland County Treasurer's Office, gave an overview of the Treasurer's Report for FY 2020-2021, Month 6. The report includes the Oakland County Zoological Authority Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenditures, Non-Expenditure Payments, and Transfers from Tax Collection Payments to the Detroit Zoological Society, as of May 31, 2021.

Cooper moved to receive and file the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Grieco.

Motion carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **UPDATE FROM THE BYLAWS WORKGROUP**

The Oakland County Zoological Authority has engaged George Butler, Dickinson Wright to develop bylaws for the Oakland County Zoological Authority. They are still being revised and reviewed. A draft of the bylaws may be available for the next scheduled Authority meeting.

## **UPDATE FROM THE DETROIT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY AUTHORITY MEMBERS**

Mr. Kolo and Ms. Grieco provided updates regarding the work of the Detroit Zoological Society Authority. As a member of the Government Relations Taskforce of the Detroit Zoological Society Authority, Mr. Kolo is working on a project with Ron Kagan, County Executive Coulter and Oakland County Board of Commissioner Chairman David Woodward to obtain additional funding for the zoo.

Ms. Grieco, as a member of the Diversity, Equity Inclusion and Community Relations Committee of the Detroit Zoological Society Authority, indicated that a mission statement has been developed with a focus on how to improve diversity and equity inclusion with community relations in all aspects of the zoo, including where the zoo invests its dollars. An annual Zoological Society Authority members' meeting is planned to take place this year, at the end of July.

## **UPDATE FROM DETROIT ZOO – RON KAGAN, CEO**

Mr. Kagan provided some updates regarding zoo activities. The search for Mr. Kagan's replacement is ongoing nationally, and the Search Committee, and ultimately the full Zoo Board, will appoint a new member. The Government Relations Task Force was convened with individuals in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb Counties. The Task Force will serve until the new CEO is on board.

During the past month or so the Zoo has been able to safely increase daily capacity for attendance. Some indoor and outdoor areas that were previously restricted are now open. The Zoo has traditionally been more conservative than the CDC about restrictions, as certain animals are susceptible to COVID-19, and they have had to take additional measures. Zoo visitorship has been managed in a way that keeps the zoo safe with very few incidents.

Attendance may be better this year than last, which helps with the zoo budget. There are still several challenges, one of which is finding people to hire in the guest service industry areas. There is hope that the Counties will be creative in helping with additional funding to benefit from some of the federal relief.

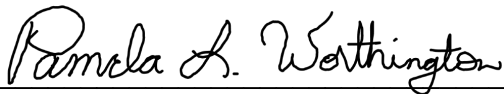
The Zoo is running a fundraising campaign and has applied for grants to support projects like the Kids' Zone. In terms of environmental projects, the Zoo is replanting 2,000 trees. It has been challenging to resume the Senior Days event, due to staffing issues, but it's possible that the Zoo could have a Senior Days event in September. The Penguin Conservation Center repairs are ongoing.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Authority, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.



Pamela L. Worthington, Committee Coordinator  
Oakland County Board of Commissioners



Jennifer M. Grieco, Secretary  
Oakland County Zoological Authority

**NOTE:** The foregoing minutes are subject to Authority approval.