



15 October Board Meeting

5:30pm - 7:30pm in the River House at the Nature Center at Pia Okwai\

Trustees present: Reza Ahmadi, John Malooly, Mary Pendergast, Emmanuel Santa-Martinez, Chloe Agyin, Maria Estrada, and Rohit Nair.

Trustees excused (advance notice): Jim Deyfous, Kim Sorrentino, Maile Arvin, and Linda Jim.

Staff present: Jeff Jones, Kate Lyngle-Cowand, Helen Dishaw, Anne Terry, and Tim Brown.

Guests present: Erin O'Farrell and Holly Yocom

After a welcome and ice breaker, Reza called for a motion to approve the September meeting notes. Emmanuel made the motion, seconded by Maria and it passed unanimously.

Tracy Aviary has contracted with Pathway Group to facilitate the development of a new Strategic Plan as well as a mission statement review. Holly Yocom from Pathway Group gave an overview presentation about their approach, opportunities for engagement, and timeline. The presentation has been shared with the board electronically as a pdf.

Following the presentation, and following no questions or concerns with the staff report, being an Aviary Advocate (or ambassador) was discussed.

Committees are a great way to engage with the board. Tim described the work of each committee and mentioned upcoming committee meetings (Finance, Wednesday October 23 at noon; Facilities Wednesday October 30th from 3:30-5pm). Committees are listed below:

- Conservation (Mary)
- Education/Community-based Conservation (Emmanuel, Maile)
- Executive (officers = Reza, Maria, John and Mary)
- Facilities (Rohit)
- Finance (John)
- Fundraising (Kim)
- Governance
- Animal Well Being
- Diversity

Trustees were also encouraged to get involved by attending events, visiting the facility, bringing friends and family to our spaces, hosting birthday parties at our locations, etc.

Next Other Business was addressed. A few items of note:

- ZAP reauthorization will be on the ballot in Salt Lake County this November. Tracy A diary benefits from the program by receiving financial support.
- Salt Lake County will also have a Public Safety bond on the ballot. Tracy Aviary will likely benefit from this effort because, among other things, it funds services that can help people experiencing homelessness.
- There is an effort underway by Salt Lake County to master plan the central Jordan River area. Tim passed out information about this effort, also linked [here](#).
- AZA dues have gone up from about \$5,000 to \$20,000 this year. Being a member of AZA is expensive in many ways.
- Community leaders are looking for a space to build a campus for people experiencing homelessness. The goal is to find a 30 acres parcel that can serve 1000 - 1200 people (about 4 to 5 times larger than the Men's Homeless Resource Center). There is talk about this being located at the shuttered Oxbow Jail, which is about 2800 South and adjacent to the Jordan River. Locating this facility at that location would be problematic for the Jordan River Parkway and likely the Jordan River itself because rather than developing the Oxbow Jail site in a manner that would enhance efforts to make the river and the parkway more of a community asset, the campus would be a shuttered space not accessible to the public. We will be tracking the progress on this effort and may become actively engaged.
- 4 species of bats were detected during a recent monitoring effort at the nature center. That effort along with a booth hosted at Halloween Hoot represent an initial foray into using the nature center to better understand bat populations in that area, and to educate the public about bats. Thanks to Mary for being the energy behind this work.
- Finally, Erin O'Farrell, a graduate student in the Environmental Humanities program at the University of Utah is collaborating on a project with the Nature Center at Pia Okwai about the campus' renaming and related initiatives to center Indigenous ecological knowledges. Part of this project has been creating videos to share on our website and social media that highlight staff and community members' relations to Pia Okwai and their role in the name change process. Here are a few examples of the videos Lora and I have created to highlight staff perspectives about the Nature Center's renaming and relations to Pia Okwai: one with [Zabrina](#) and another with [Anne](#). Here's a little more [info about her fellowship](#) and work in EH if folks are interested in more context about who she is and what they've been up to at the Aviary.

The meeting was then adjourned.