AGENDA
ZOO ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2026
5:30 PM
FINNUP CENTER FOR CONSERVATION EDUCATION

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

II.1. Minutes from the October 13, 2026 Zoo Advisory Board meeting
ZAB Minutes Oct 26

III. NEW BUSINESS

III.1. Picture of the Month

III.2. Proposed Changes to Zoo Hours

IV. DIRECTOR REPORTS

IV.1. Zoo Monthly Report
Zoo Current Monthly report

IV.2. FOLRZ Report
FOLRZ October Report 2026

V. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

VI. ADJOURN

Zoo Advisory Board
Minutes of Meeting Held
Tuesday, October 13, 2026

Members Present: Susan Rojas, Randy Baker, Addyson Bjurstrom, James McGowan, Joseph Conner, Kelsey Kreyer
Members Absent: Stephanie Haug
Others Present: Kristi Newland, Donna Wohler, Yeimi Danville

I. James called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.
II. Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

III. New Business
   a. **Welcome New Board Members** – Board members made introductions and welcomed Joseph and Kelsey to the Board.
   b. **Picture of the Month** – Fifteen employees submitted pictures of LRZ animals, and the Board chose Keeper Peyton Schmidli's photo of giraffes. The photo will be displayed on social media.
   c. **Sales Tax BRMP Facts** – Yeimi Darville from the County spoke about the upcoming vote to renew the Building Road Maintenance Program sales tax.
   d. **CIPs –** Kristi went over proposed projects for the Capital Improvement Program. 2028- Expand Smart Water Practice - $363.000; improves water conservation & staff efficiency. 2029- Horse & Camel Barns - $2,954,982; will facilitate breeding herd of Asian Wild horses & improve animal wellbeing & staff efficiency. 7th Street Entrance; spreads out traffic; improves access from major arterial road. 2030- Avian Addition - $1,199,664; guests will be able to view birds year-round, improves animal wellbeing & staff efficiency.
   e. **Help Selecting Employee of the 3rd Quarter –** Kelsey volunteered to help with the process. Kristi will contact her to set up a date and time.
   f. **Elect New Secretary –** Randy nominated Joseph to fill Jessi's vacated position as Secretary. Addyson seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Director Reports
   a. **Zoo Monthly Report** – Weekend giraffe encounters ended for the season. Staff are preparing winter areas for temperature-sensitive birds. A USDA inspection took place with no non-compliant items found. Managers reviewed final construction documents and estimated budgets for the 3 future projects. Conservation Awareness participated in Fall Fest. The Maintenance Team began finishing details of the old takin habitat remodel & snow leopard rebuild.
   b. **FOLRZ Report** –

V. Board Member Reports – Addyson noticed that the metal red-eared slider on the nature trail had fallen over. Zoo staff will look into it.
VI. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35

Next scheduled meeting is November 10 at 5:30 p.m.

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
ZOO DEPARTMENT
OCTOBER 2026 MONTHLY REPORT

ANIMAL CARE, HEALTH AND NUTRITION

ACCESSIONS:

Births/Hatchings

0.1	Addax	Calf born per SSP breeding recommendation

Transfers In

0.1	Blue-faced honeyeater	Transferred from Sedgwick County Zoo per SSP recommendation

DEACCESSIONS:

Deaths

1.0	Trumpeter swan	Suspected Aspergillus fungal infection

Transfers Out

None

OPERATIONS:

Non-winter hardy birds were moved from the mews, Aviary Flight and Ground Bird habitats to temperature-controlled, off-exhibit holding areas. The monthly All-Keeper meeting focused on enrichment and conservation, during which staff carved pumpkins for animal enrichment using AZA SAFE species stencils. Dr. Trumble led an All-Keeper meeting on medication compliance and treatment sheets. Class 1 Keepers met to discuss ideas from shadowing 2-lock, 2-key protocols at other facilities. New Seasonal Keeper Aide started. Collaborating on upcoming animal transports with Ralph Mitchell Zoo, Rolling Hills Zoo, Busch Gardens Tampa, Buffalo Zoo, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Pueblo Zoo, Como Park Zoo, Utah Hogle Zoo, Zoo Miami, Detroit Zoo, and Potter Park Zoo.

Physicals/procedures for:

Ongoing check-ups and treatments for 1.0 Chilean Flamingo, 0.1 Eurasian Collared Dove, 0.1 Hooded Crane, 1.1 Karakul Sheep, and 1.0 Ruddy Duck. 1.1 Black Rhino blood collection and phlebotomies. 0.1 Cougar vaccines. Beak trim for 0.1 Screech Owl. Neonate exam on 0.1 Addax. Pre-shipment exam for 1.0 Addax. Routine exams for 1.1 Black & White Ruffed Lemurs and 4.0 Red-Ruffed lemurs.

ADMINISTRATION

Staff facilitated Leave a Legacy (1,200 participants), City's Walktober, and FOLRZ's Boo! at the Zoo (attendance estimated at 4,904). Staff participated in the fall KAZoo meeting at Topeka Zoo, pepper spray training by GCPD, a presentation on Emergency Action/Fire Prevention by KMU, and the City's third session on Onboarding Academy and Echelon Front training for 2026 hires. Proposed Capital Improvement Projects were turned in. Attendance for the first half of the year was ahead of last year. Third quarter attendance fell behind (weather-related). Emergency drill number 2 was completed (animal escape). Picture of the Month selected by the Zoo Advisory Board: giraffe picture by Keeper Peyton Schmidli.

CONSERVATION AWARENESS

Staff hosted a Discovery cart for the Monarch Migration Meet-up, which reached 108 people, and ECOMeet, a competition about conservation and native animals attended by high school students. Conservation Awareness Manager participated in a Trunk-or-Treat event attended by over 450 people. The Zoo's post about Boo at the Zoo received 17,021 views on Facebook. The Facebook video of Dylan, the desert bighorn sheep, training received 14,462 views.

MAINTENANCE

Work continued on the leopard habitat, which is nearly complete, along with finishing work on the old Takin habitat. Staff completed a variety of work requests, including heater, fence, padlock, and doorknob repairs; and serviced and repaired mowers experiencing various issues. The team also prepared for the Boo! at the Zoo event and began weekly cleanup of bean pods and leaves in areas around the Zoo where they accumulate.

FRIENDS OF LEE RICHARDSON ZOO
GARDEN CITY, KS EST. 1975

405 South Fourth Street
P.O. Box 1638
Garden City, KS 67846

FOLRZ October 2026

Membership Total $2,415 New and Renewals

- **YTD** income **TY $34,580 LY $41,860**
- **September 468 October 482**
- **11 new memberships**

Memorials

None in the month of October but have ordered a memorial rock for Molly Weiland that had already been paid

Donations & Grants Total $100

- Dixie Drake $100

Wild Friends Total $110

Wild Lights Sponsors $10,000

- Garden City Christian Academy - Presenting sponsor $6,000
- Randy's Donuts – North Pole Sponsor $3,000 (discounted because the top two are sponsored by the same company GCAP)
- GPCU – Warming Station $1,000

Social Media Update 11/09/2026 numbers

- 1807 end of September 2272 as of 11/09/26, 465 new followers out of those 250 were because of Angie's Wild Lights post. Been inviting those who react in any form to like our page. Easy to do in the business dashboard for fb. Has significantly increased our followers
- Wild Lights post 70,329 views
  890 likes/reactions
  250 New Followers
  167 shares

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Match Day

- Giving for Match Day 2026 starts November 16th – December 1st
- Letters with a short-handwritten message were sent out yesterday to donors who have given substantially in the past.
- November 16th Emails will be sent out to everyone who has an email address in eTapestry
- Series of FB posts to follow during the giving period
- Board can help by reaching out to friends and family
- My goal is at the very least 10% increase over LY
- Total received last year was $16,810

Save the Date

- March 20th & 21st, 2027 52nd Annual Better Home, Living and Farm show
- Board member volunteer opportunities are:
  March 20th 10-6 pm
  March 21St 12-5 pm
- Sign-up sheet will follow as the date approaches, hours will be flexible to accommodate any schedule