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## **Seneca Park Zoo Society looks to future at Annual Meeting**

*Members elect six new members to the Board of Trustees*

Rochester, NY—May 16, 2016—On Saturday, May 14, Seneca Park Zoo members were invited to join Zoo Society Executive Director Pamela Reed Sanchez, other Zoo and Zoo Society leaders, and the Board of Trustees for its annual meeting. Presentations focused on the future of the Zoo and on the successes of 2015, a year marked by continued growth and financial sustainability, new conservation initiatives and partnerships, and an intensive strategic and master planning process with Monroe County.

Reed Sanchez welcomed attendees and highlighted some of the innovative ways in which the Zoo Society will continue to tell its story this year. “As we look to execute our mission in 2016,” she noted, “we are excited about continuing to expand our impact locally and globally.”

Monroe County Parks Director Larry Staub delivered remarks on behalf of County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo regarding the Zoo’s continuing importance to Monroe County as a financial asset and public attraction, and Stephen Brown, Board President, gave an overview of the successes of last year. Board Treasurer Randall Shepard delivered the Treasurer’s Report, which commended the Zoo Society for its 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of clean audits, balanced budgets, and zero operating deficits.

Brown presented the nominations of seven returning trustees for additional terms. Tim DeGrave was elected to serve his first full term, having previously served a partial term after filling a vacated position; Peter Lutz, Randy Shephard, and Keith Wilson were elected for second terms; and Gavin Brownlie, Mary Ellen Brothers Guon, and Jim McElheny were elected for third terms. Zoo Society Board of Trustees bylaws allow for three consecutive three-year terms, after which board members may take a year off before returning to the board. Brown also presented the nominations of six new trustees, who members then elected. They are:



### **Leonard Bayer, former Board President**

Len Bayer was a member of the board from 2006 to 2015. Len is major philanthropist in the Rochester community. Now retired, he was Chief Scientist and Executive Vice President, Harris Interactive, Inc.

	<p><b>Maureen Dobies, community volunteer and previous board member</b></p> <p>Maureen Dobies was a previous member of the board from 2006 to 2015. Mo is a major community philanthropist and sits on the boards of numerous Rochester cultural organizations.</p>
	<p><b>Jeff Grenzer, Director of Leadership and Organization Development at Paychex</b></p> <p>Jeff Grenzer has with more than 25 years of experience in organizational development, change leadership, human resources, training and talent management in a variety of industries spanning across the globe. He has a MBA from the University of New York, Buffalo, and a MA in Human Resource Management from the USAF Air University. He resides in Webster and is an avid supporter of Autism Awareness and the United Way.</p>
	<p><b>Christopher Stern, CEO of Hamilton Stern</b></p> <p>Chris Stern's experience encompasses residential and commercial construction including projects in higher education, multi-family housing, retail, and healthcare. In 2009, the Urban League of Rochester honored Chris (and Gary Lyons) with its Outstanding Businessperson Award for helping to successfully deliver its largest construction project to-date. Christ has a degree from Rochester Institute of Technology and lives in Rochester.</p>
	<p><b>Debby Wilson, community volunteer and previous board member</b></p> <p>Debby Wilson first served on the Board of Trustees in 1988. Her most recent term was from 2006 to 2015. Debby is chair of The Elaine P. &amp; Richard U. Wilson Foundation; she is a major philanthropist in the community and sits on the boards of numerous Rochester cultural organizations.</p>
	<p><b>Ben Wood, CEO of ViewSPORT Inc., Founder of SELLATEE</b></p> <p>Ben Wood's mission is to motivate and empower all those interested in living healthier and more active lives with a new tool to visibly measure their hard work. Ben has a degree from State University of New York at Binghamton and lives in Rochester.</p>

Reed Sanchez concluded the meeting by discussing exciting plans for the Zoo in 2016. She also shared the latest drawings for new habitats set to open in June of 2018.

For more information about the Seneca Park Zoo Society's mission, Master Planning process, and annual reports, visit <http://senecaparkzoo.org/about/>

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 Internationally, and in our own backyard, Seneca Park Zoo plays a key role in species survival. Chartered as an educational institution in 1957 by New York State, the Seneca Park Zoo Society plays an integral role in supporting Monroe County, the owners and operators of the Zoo. Together, we are working to bring animals back from the brink of extinction.