



## Statement of Commitment and Responsibilities of Members of the Emeritus Board of Trustees of The Wild Center

### Background

The Wild Center Board of Trustees continues to evolve and turn over as it passes its ten year anniversary. This has historically been an unusually talented and engaged Board that has helped guide The Wild Center through its formative years. The Wild Center would like to maintain the significant institutional knowledge and valuable insight that resides among departing trustees. Further, The Wild Center has an opportunity to continue to nurture enthusiastic engagement as former highly engaged trustees move on to other pursuits.

### Trustee Emeritus Approach

The Wild Center Board of Trustees is therefore establishing the position of **Trustee Emeritus**, whereby selected departing trustees can remain actively engaged with The Wild Center. This position will provide institutional continuity, help the Board maintain an ongoing connection to The Wild Center's compelling history and founding, and enable the Board to maintain ongoing close ties with former trustees and benefit from their collective experience. Trustees emeriti would be active participants in the life of The Wild Center, remain engaged with the board, and be encouraged to continue to serve as goodwill ambassadors on behalf of The Wild Center.

### Criteria

The Trustee Emeritus designation will recognize exemplary service to The Wild Center as a board member and signify an ongoing relationship with The Wild Center. Emeritus status is an honor that will be selectively bestowed by the Board of Trustees. Given The Wild Center's size and scope as of 2017, a reasonable maximum number of Emeriti over the foreseeable future is 6-10.

The Board of Trustees will award lifetime Emeritus status to departing trustees based on 1) a history of active participation with The Wild Center Board over multiple terms, 2) consistent financial support of The Wild Center over an extended period of time and 3) demonstrated interest in maintaining an

ongoing close connection with The Wild Center, including staying informed on strategic issues and board agenda items, continuing financial support and serving as an ambassador for The Wild Center.

### Trustee Emeritus Role/Expectations

Emeriti trustees will be expected to maintain engagement with The Wild Center, including financial support, building engagement with prospective supporters, identifying potential donors and, as available, attending current Board of Trustee meetings as a non-voting Trustee.

The Executive Director and President will invite all emeriti trustees who are unable to attend Board meetings to participate in a variety of activities designed to maintain engagement, including possible regular conference calls to review issues discussed by the Board, Board resolutions, key strategic direction and financial position; special meetings or events for the group; and individual stewardship by the board and staff. The objective of these activities is to solicit active input and nurture continuing engagement.

Regular communication with emeriti trustees is of high importance. Emeriti trustees will be included in most electronic and written communication to the board, including, but not exclusive of strategic plans, key activities and initiatives, marketing plans and support, financial position and development initiatives.

### Election

The Committee on Trustees will review and recommend to the Board of Trustees nominees for emeritus status based on the criteria above.

Current as of 5/5/2017