

RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

October 24, 2013

San Francisco Zoo

5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Eric Donnell

Recreation and Park Commission President, Mark Buell

San Francisco Zoological Society (SFZS) Board Member, Maria Alvarez, Chair

San Francisco Zoological Society (SFZS) Board Member, Elena Asturias

San Francisco Zoological Society (SFZS) Board Member, Gail Secchia

Committee Advisor, Sally Stephens

Committee Advisor, Joseph Spinelli

2. Joint Zoo Committee Meeting Minutes (Action Item)

ACTION: MSA

Adoption of Minutes of the September 26, 2013 Committee Meeting

3. San Francisco Zoo Administrative Report (Discussion)

Tanya Peterson, Executive Director and President, SFZS

Director Peterson reported attendance for the month of September was 59,578 visitors versus budget of 64,800. Visitor attendance for October 1 through October 21 is 39,250 versus budget of 35,700. Year-to-date attendance is 304,863 versus budget of 298,500.

In terms of animal updates, Peterson reported that the newest addition to the Bernard Osher Giraffe Lodge recently made her debut. The five year old female reticulated giraffe, named Barboro, was introduced to the rest of the giraffe herd earlier this month. The Zoo's herd now totals six giraffes: five females and one male, ranging in age from 5 months to 11 years.

Each year the Zoo celebrates hardworking and dedicate adult volunteers at the annual Adult Volunteer Appreciation Party. Peterson reported the theme this year was celebrating the Zoo's local conservation efforts, as well as native wildlife, habitats, flora and fauna. Service awards were given out including this year's "Good Egg" Award, which is the highest honor given to one volunteer. This year, it was awarded to Marianne Hale. Marianne is the Zoo's volunteer photographer and many of her photos are used on the Zoo's website, marketing materials, in the media and a magazine cover.

In terms of events, Peterson reported that the first of this year's two weekend Boo At The Zoo events was a success despite road closures due to the Nike Woman's Marathon last Sunday. Peterson thanked Grocery Outlet Bargain Market, which is the event sponsor. Peterson then reported that the newly renovated Elinor Friend Family Playground is scheduled to open Thanksgiving week. Regarding membership, Peterson reported that October is "Members' Month, with members obtaining early access on Sunday mornings plus free carousel rides and coffee.

Lastly, Peterson reported with great pride the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entered into between the San Francisco Zoo and Shanghai Zoological Park. The Shanghai Zoo is the largest zoo in China and widely recognized as China's best zoo. The signing took place during her trip to Shanghai. As outlined in the MOU, each zoo aspires to incent a "concerned,

aware, energized, caring and sympathetic” citizenry and to encourage “gentleness toward animals and compassion for the well-being of wild places.”

Committee Advisor Stephens asked if the care of the baby gorilla has been taken over by a member of the troop. Peterson responded that Bwang, the grandmother of both Hasani and the newborn, has started to take over care. Member of Public Ennis asked if SFZ is considering getting a panda. Peterson stated that this is currently not under consideration.

4. **Animal Transactions.** (Action Item) **ACTION: MSA**
Ingrid Russell-White, Curator of ASCP, SFZS
Discussion and possible action to recommend that the Recreation and Park Commission approve the following transactions:

**SAN FRANCISCO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS
ANIMAL TRANSACTION RATIFICATION – October 2013**

DONATION TO:	ANIMAL SPECIES	PRICE	TOTAL DUE
Roger Williams Zoo	0.1 Red-necked wallaby	NIL	N/A
1000 Elmwood Avenue	<i>Macropus rufogriseus</i>		
Providence, RI 02907			

DONATION FROM:			
Louisville Zoo	1.0 Eastern bongo	NIL	N/A
1100 Trevilian Way	<i>Tragelaphus eurycerus isaaci</i>		
Louisville, KY 40213			

PURCHASE FROM:			
East Bay Vivarium	0.10 mice	\$2.00 each	\$20.00
1827-C 5 th Street	<i>Mus musculus</i>		
Berkeley, CA 94710			

Committee Member Secchia asked what is a bongo. Russell-White responded it is an endangered antelope. Committee Member Alvarez asked if the mice are for feeding. Russell-White responded that they are for display.

5. **Animal Updates.** (Discussion)
Ingrid Russell-White, curator of ASCP, SFZS

ANIMAL UPDATES – SEPTEMBER 2013					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
ACQUISITIONS					
9	0.1	Reticulated giraffe	Loan		From San Diego Zoo Safari Park
11	0.0.1	Chacoan peccary	Birth		
18	0.0.2	Cuban amazon	Loan in		From Private Party
18	0.0.4	Vinaceous amazon	Loan in		From Private Party
18	1.1	Curly-crested aracari	Loan in		From Private Party
DISPOSITION					
1	0.1	Francois langur	Death	Age at Death 15Y, 7M, 10D	Oral cancer

11	0.0.0	Chacoan peccary	Death	0Y, 0M, 0D	Killed by conspecific shortly after birth
13	1.1.	African crowned eagle	Loan Return		To San Diego Zoo
14	0.1	Greater rhea	Death	2Y, 3M, 28D	Dislocated hock joint, shock. Pathology report pending
14	1.0	North American ruddy duck	Disappeared		Missing from CZ
19	1.0	Curl-crested aracari	Loan return		Due to oral mass
20	0.1	Sugar glider	Death	~8Y, 8M, 19D	Neurological disease. Pathology report pending

Member of Public Colonnesse stated his previous recommendation for night keepers. Member of Public Ennis questioned what killed the peccary. Response was that it was assumed it was a member of the family group; however, it could have been a predator as it occurred at night. Ennis asked the actual cause of death. Veterinarian Crawford responded that it was partially eaten.

6. Zoo Crew Youth Program

(Information only)

Jessa Barzelay, Education Supervisor, SFZ

Barzelay gave an overview of SFZ's Zoo Crew Youth program through which youth help to restore wildlife habitat at Lake Merced and other sites around San Francisco. Member of Public Hastings complimented the program for bringing youth out to participate. Committee Member Alvarez asked with the response to participation in the program and that youth are turned away, will the development of expanded partnerships in other areas fill the gap and allow more participation, and if so, how many youth would be able to participate? Barzelay responded that it would depend on the success of the partnership program. Committee Member Asturias questioned how information is disseminated to underrepresented areas. The program is promoted mostly through zoo publications, website and presentations at schools. Scholarship options exist and are utilized.

7. Announcements

(Information only)

None

8. Chair's Announcements.

(Information only)

None

9. Old Business.

(Discussion)

None

10. New Business/Future Agenda Items.

(Information only)

11. Public Comments:

Member of Public Hastings stated that he is glad to see the Bathhouse gone and was encouraged by the renovated children's playground stating that SFZ seems to be heading in the right direction. He believes the Zoo needs a lot of work and submitted some ideas for various upgrades and ideas. Member of Public Rothman reported that the Arts Commission and Recreation & Park are completing the application to be forwarded to the Preservation Committee for the Mother's Building.

12. Adjournment.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.