

RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

January 24, 2013

San Francisco Zoo

5:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Paige Arata

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Mark Buell

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Larry Martin

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

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

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

Committee Advisor, Joseph Spinelli

Committee Advisor, Sally Stephens

1. Joint Zoo Committee Meeting Minutes (Action Item) ACTION: MSA

Adoption of Minutes of the December 21, 2012 Committee Meeting

2. San Francisco Zoo Administrative Report (Discussion)

Tanya Peterson, Executive Director and President, SFZS

Director Peterson welcomed new Committee member SFZS Board Member Gail Secchia and congratulated Maria Alvarez as Committee Chair this year. Peterson then provided December's attendance, which is 40,266 versus budget of 36,000. Year-to-date attendance is 430,368 visitors and exceeds projections by 8%. On animal news, Peterson reported SFZ's newly born yellow backed duiker has been given access to the Savanna, and also, exploratory surgery was performed on the male Sumatran tiger, requiring him to be off-exhibit. Remarking on the recent football playoffs, Peterson also thanked SF 49er right tackle Alex Boone for raising funds for the San Francisco Zoo and wished him luck in the upcoming Super Bowl. In February, the Zoo will open a temporary exhibit, *"Dinosaur Revolution: Living Large"*, which consists of a Dinosaur maze and interactive activities. The Zoo also will host a Chinese New Year event celebrating the Year of the Snake, and a conservation lecture will be held on Saturday in the Osher Great Hall. Lastly, Peterson showed a clip from NBC Bay Area News on the recent death of SFZ's beloved chimpanzee, Tallulah, and highlighted other geriatric animals at SFZ and their treatments.

SFZS Board Member Gail Secchia stated she finds it very interesting that animals are suffering from the same diseases and being treated with the same medicines as humans. Committee Advisor Spinelli complimented SFZ on the holiday *Zoo Lights* event.

3. Animal Transactions. (Action Item) ACTION: MSA

David Bocian, VP Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS

Discussion and possible action to recommend that the Recreation and Park Commission approve the following transactions:

SAN FRANCISCO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

ANIMAL TRANSACTION RATIFICATION – January 2013

DONATION TO	ANIMAL SPECIES	PRICE	TOTAL DUE
California Wildlife Center PO Box 2022 Malibu, CA 90265	0.1 Virginia opossum <i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	NIL	N/A

DONATION FROM

RabbitEARS
7523 Fairmount Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530

0.2 Old world rabbits
Oryctolagus cuniculus

NIL

N/A

PURCHASE FROM

Obsidian Ranch
930 Lawndale Road
Kenwood, CA 95452

0.3 San Clemente Island goats
Capra aegagrus hircus

\$1250

\$1250

4. Animal Updates.

(Discussion)

David Bocian, VP Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS

ANIMAL UPDATES – DECEMBER 2012					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
ACQUISITIONS					
4	0.0.1	Patas monkey	Birth	Stillbirth	
5	0.1	Four-toed hedgehog	Donation		Cal Fish & Game from confiscation
13	1.0	Four-toed hedgehog	Donation		Cal Fish & Game from confiscation
14	0.0.2	American white pelican	Donation		Treehouse Wildlife Center
25	0.1	Yellow-backed duiker	Birth		
DISPOSITION					
				Age at Death	
4	0.0.1	Patas monkey	Death	0Y, 0M, 0D	Stillbirth
5	1.0	Virginia opossum	Donation		Wildcare/returned animal
10	1.0	Francois langur	Death	13Y,6M,16D	Pending
15	0.1	Hamerkop	Loan Transfer		National Zoo
25	0.0.1	Black-tailed prairie dog	Death	TBD	Pending
27	0.0.1	California newt	Death	3Y, 11M, 26d	Pending
28	1.0	Domestic guinea pig	Death	3Y, 2M, 25D	Pending

Commissioner Buell asked what a Yellow-backed duiker is. Bocian responded that it is a forest antelope, short and stout. Member of Public, Mark Ennis, questioned why SFZ was sending an opossum to Wildcare. Bocian stated that this animal was received from Wildcare and while in quarantine was found to have salmonella and therefore was returned as an animal with this condition could not be used in handling by visitors. Member of Public, Tony Colonese, stated that he felt the Zoo was being modest about the duiker birth as this breeding program has been very successful.

5. Wellness Update

Dr. Terry Maple, SFZS

Dr. Maple reviewed the wellness practices at the San Francisco Zoo. It is a long-term strategy for the Zoo and in fact for the whole community. He says that he feels this program at the Zoo will be innovative for other institutions. He works with all members of the staff and is impressed with the dedication to this initiative. This week's concentration was in environmental enrichment.

Committee Advisor Stephens stated that she saw on the news the use of iPads with orangutans and asked if this is something being considered here. Dr. Maple stated that certain animals have been shown to work well with technology. At this time, the use of such technology is in discussion for possible future introduction. Member of Public, Mark Ennis, asked if Dr. Maple

could speak on specifics of programs being used at SFZ and in particular issues regarding rhino Gahati. Dr. Maple responded that the team is going through every animal SFZ to formulate an overall plan. Bocian responded on the issues with Gahati and what plans have been discussed stating that any adjustment for such an animal needs to be indestructible.

6. **Announcements** (Information only)
7. **Chair's Announcements.** (Information only)
None
8. **Old Business.** (Discussion)
None
9. **New Business/Future Agenda Items.** (Information only)
10. **Public Comments:**
Member of Public, Richard Rothman, spoke on the renovation of the Mother's Building and stated that on Goggle website there is information and a short video on the building which can be seen by entering "Mother's Building" for search. He is still attempting to set up an event so that the Preservation Committee can come to SFZ and view the building. Also, the Historical Preservation Commission has requested a report from staff on the building.
11. **Adjournment.**
Meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.