

RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

October 22, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

San Francisco Zoo, Lurie Education Center

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Recreation and Park Commissioner Mark Buell

Recreation and Park Commissioner Tom Harrison

San Francisco Zoological Society (SFZS) Board Member, Bill Beech

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

Committee Advisor, Joseph Spinelli

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

Adoption of Minutes of the September 22, 2015 Committee Meeting.

3. San Francisco Zoo Administrative Report (Discussion)

Joe Fitting, Deputy Director, SFZS.

Fitting reported SFZ hosted the annual Association of Zoological Horticulture (AZH) Conference. There were 100 attendees this affording SFZ a chance to showcase its knowledge and investments in its gardens. Update on the lion cub: it has been determined the cub is male and he has begun to venture out of the nesting box; mother Sukari is very attentive and protective. Zoo Crew season began on Saturday, September 26th with the first meeting at Lake Merced. The program has 40 youth ranging in ages 11 – 14 years and works in collaboration with Recreation and Parks Department Natural Areas program to restore habitats around Lake Merced. Also, in partnership with the Presidio Trust, the group will have monthly meetings helping to restore areas around Mountain Lake where Zoo-raised western pond turtles were recently released. On September 16 SFZ hosted 100 inpatient Veterans of the VA Palo Alto Health Care System Western Blind Rehabilitation Center (WBRC). Mr. Fitting then read a letter from the psychologist, social worker and recreation therapist which commended SFZ Docent Chris Shuttlesworth on the tour she conducted. The veterans were taken to SFZ Sculpture Garden where they could touch the sculptures. She also gave a descriptive interpretation of various exhibits which made them come alive to the veterans and then gave a presentation at which the veterans could touch various animals from the ARC. They thanked SFZ for making the trip a delightful experience for all. Education Program Specialist Blair Bazdarich attended a meeting of the newly formed Bay Area Climate Literacy Collaborative on September 29 at the Bay Model Visitor Center in Sausalito. The mission of this collaborative is to increase climate literacy and action throughout the Bay Area by sharing successes and building capacity of climate educators and messengers. SFZ President and Executive Director Tanya Peterson was invited to participate on Climate One radio show at The Commonwealth Club. Greg Dalton, Executive Producer of Climate One, reached out to include her on the panel since the Zoo supports climate change initiatives that directly impact wildlife. SFZ's annual Boo at the Zoo event returns October 24-25 with lots of activities for all. All activities are free with paid admission but kids in costume will receive \$1 off admission. Recently, SFZ said goodbye to 15 year-old Amur tiger, Martha. Martha started to exhibit abnormal behavior which prompted an immediate veterinary exam. Upon examination, the veterinary team noticed she had a large mass in her abdomen which resulted in calling veterinary surgeon, Dr. Wells, in for an emergency splenectomy (removal of the spleen). Under careful watch throughout the evening, Martha did not fully recover and passed away the next morning. Fitting reported receiving a letter from the Museum Wildlife and Fish Biology program at University of California at Davis thanking SFZ for donations of animal specimens. The specimens are available not only to students but different public institutions for study which enhance knowledge of various taxa.

Member of Public asked if Fitting had admission numbers. Fitting stated he did not have them at this time. Commissioner Buell stated that these figures are presented at the Recreation & Parks Commission meeting.

4. Animal Transactions.

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 – October 2015**

DONATION TO:	ANIMAL SPECIES	PRICE	TOTAL DUE
Phoenix Zoo 455 N. Galvin Parkway Phoenix, AZ 85008	1.0 Common squirrel monkey <i>Saimiri sciureus</i>	NIL	N/A

DONATION FROM:

West Coast Ferrets PO Box 162057 Sacramento, CA 95816	0.2 Domestic ferret/polecat <i>Mustela putorius furo</i>	NIL	N/A
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Queens Zoo 5351 111 Street Flushing, NY 11368-3301	0.2 Hyacinth macaw <i>Andorhyncus hyacinthinus</i>	NIL	N/A
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Member of Public questioned why the squirrel monkey is being donated. Bocian responded that he is part of breeding plan and is designated to go to a different zoo. Member of Public asked the name of the penguin. Bocian answered "Pippin".

5. Animal Updates.

(Discussion)

David Bocian, VP Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS

ANIMAL UPDATES – September 2015					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
ACQUISITIONS					
6	3.0	Domestic goats	Purchase	Purchased from local farm	
10	2.0	Slender-tailed meerkat	Donation	Received from Oakland Zoo	
23	0.0.1	Patas monkey	Birth		
DISPOSITIONS					
				Age at Death	
3	1.0	Magellanic penguin	Death	24Y, 3M, 3D	Respiratory and neurological disease
16	0.1	Southern cassowary	Death	21Y, 2m, 3D	Internal bleeding from kidney.
23	0.0.1	Patas monkey	Death	0Y, 0M, 0D	Pathology report pending

6. **Update on Carnivore Care at SFZ** (Discussion)
Ashleigh Lutz-Nelson, AC Carnivores, SFZS
Ms. Lutz-Nelson presented an overview of the care and handling of carnivores at the San Francisco Zoo. There are 11 species of carnivores at SFZ consisting of rescue, rehabilitated as well as SSP recommendation animals. Lutz-Nelson reviewed the husbandry training which takes place at SFZ. This training allows for exams and monitoring animal health including administering ultrasounds, taking weight readings, giving injections, delivery of subcutaneous fluids, voluntary tail blood draw, x-ray, voluntary blood pressure reading and transport of animals. These practices reduce stress for the animals when having various procedures performed. Enrichment is also a large component of care at SFZ involving different items being given to the animals. SFZ also participates in organizations and programs which promote Carnivore Conservation.
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)
None
11. **Public Comments:**
None
12. **Adjournment**
Meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.