

**RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT**

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

February 26, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

San Francisco Zoo, Lurie Education Center

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Recreation and Park Commissioner Eric McDonnell

Recreation and Park Commissioner Mark Buell

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

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

Committee Advisor, Sally Stephens

Committee Advisor, Joseph Spinelli

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

Adoption of Minutes of the February 26, 2015 Committee Meeting.

**3. San Francisco Zoo Administrative Report (Discussion)**

Tanya Peterson, Executive Director & President SFZS.

Peterson reported attendance for January is 68,411 versus budget of 60,000 and over budget by 8,411 visitors. Actual year-to-date attendance is 536,455 and over budget by 67,455 visitors.

Peterson announced the SFZS Ladies Auxiliary is hosting an upcoming fundraiser for Education & Conservation projects at SFZ. Ms. Peterson also highlighted the new Animal Wellness and Conservation Center, which was started with a donation from a previous SFZS Board Chair whose vision was to spread animal wellness and conservation throughout the Zoo. She also presented the FY 2013-14 Hospital Dashboard, which showed wellness reviews, physical examination, diagnostic tests, procedures and vaccinations performed to date.

Peterson reported the decision had been made to keep the oldest male chimpanzee living in captivity (known as Cobby) at SFZ. He currently lives with two aging females. This decision is contradictory to the recommendation of the Species Survival Plan (SSP) of the AZA, the Zoo's accrediting body, but was made after conferring with experts as well as visiting other facilities. Peterson discussed possible options for upgrading the chimpanzee's exhibits to house Cobby and his companions as well as provide a home for future great ape species. Lastly, Ms. Peterson acknowledged the death of former SFZ director Saul Kitchner.

Member of Public Mark Ennis stated that he did not feel bringing new chimpanzees to SFZ is a good idea due to substandard conditions at SFZ. Member of Public, Tony Colonnese, thanked Ms. Peterson for decision to keep chimpanzees here at SFZ. He did not think the current Triple Grotto is good for chimpanzees but would be good for orangutans. Member of Public stated that she was glad that the decision had been made to keep the chimpanzees here and that plans are being developed to improve their habitat.

**4. 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 – February 2015**

DONATION TO:	ANIMAL SPECIES	PRICE	TOTAL DUE
Chattanooga Zoo 301 N. Holtzclaw Avenue Chattanooga, TN 37404	1.0 Francois langur <i>Trachypithecus francoisi</i>	NIL	N/A
<b>DONATION FROM:</b>			
Fresno Chaffee Zoo 894 W. Belmont Ave. Fresno, CA 93728	1.0 Six-banded armadillo <i>Euphractus sexcinctus</i>	NIL	N/A
Fresno Chaffee Zoo 894 W. Belmont Ave. Fresno, CA 93728 559/498-5912	0.04 green-and-black poison dart frogs <i>Dendrobates auratus</i>	NIL	N/A
Fresno Chaffee Zoo 894 W. Belmont Ave. Fresno, CA 93728	0.04 yellow-and-blue poison dart frogs <i>Dendrobates tinctorius</i>	NIL	N/A
Fresno Chaffee Zoo 894 W. Belmont Ave. Fresno, CA 93728	0.04 Golfodulcean poison dart frogs <i>Phyllobates vittatus</i>	NIL	N/A
Houston Zoo 1513 N. MacGregor Houston, TX 77030	0.06 Smokey jungle frog <i>Leptodactylus pentadactylus</i>	NIL	N/A
David Calvin Paradise Earth Birds & Bird Prods. AZ Birds, LLC 6831 E Paradise Drive Scottsdale, AZ 85254	0.5 Crested oropendola <i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>	NIL	N/A

**5. Animal Updates.** (Discussion)  
David Bocian, VP Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS

ANIMAL UPDATES – JANUARY 2014					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
<b>ACQUISITIONS</b>					
15	0.0.6	Mission golden-eyed tree frog	Donation	Oakland Zoo	
15	0.0.5	Honduran dwarf spiny-tailed iguana	Donation	USFWS	
15	0.0.4	Blue spiny lizard	Donation	Oakland Zoo	
15	1.1	Green crested basilisk	Donation	Oakland Zoo	
15	0.1	Haitian giant galliwasp	Donation	Oakland Zoo	

		<b>DISPOSITION</b>		<b>Age at Death</b>	
4	0.4	Reindeer	Loan Return		Project Santa
9	1.0	African open-billed stork	Death	<b>13Y, 8M, 13D</b>	Cause unknown; Histopathology pending
14	1.0	Chilean flamingo	Death	<b>0Y, 4M, 0D</b>	Drowned in bucket. Had been held for Tx of wing fracture
14	1.0	Black parrot	Death	<b>13Y, 4M, 5D</b>	Suspected Baylissascaris – Histopath pending
14	1.1	Aye-aye	Loan Transfer		Frankfurt Zoo
17	1.0	Kunekune pig	Death	<b>~9Y, 4M, 2D</b>	Leukemia

**6. Tropical Building Animal & Programming Updates**

David Bocian, VP Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS  
Joe Fitting, VP Education & Conservation, SFZS

Bocian discussed the animal collection for the remodeled South American Tropical Forest that is scheduled to re-open this summer. Bocian reported that many of the birds moving into the Tropical Forest are from the Zoo’s current collection who live throughout the Zoo. Bocian also indicated that the anaconda, toucan and sloth that currently live in the Lion House will be moved to the remodeled building.

Fitting reported on the interpretive components that will be in the building. These elements will educate the public not only about the animals in the exhibit but also concerns around the world on animal care and conservation.

Member of Public Mark Ennis does not feel that the anaconda should be in the exhibit.

**7. Announcements** (Information only)

**8. Chair’s Announcements.** (Information only)

**9. Old Business.** (Discussion)  
None

**10. New Business/Future Agenda Items.** (Information only)

**11. Public Comments:**

SFZS animal keeper David Carroll stated that a “professional practice committee” has been formed by some of the SFZS animal keepers. Meetings are held on their own time not during work hours with keepers reviewing conditions at SFZ and coming up with suggestions for improvement. SFZS animal keeper Dayna Sherwood stated that two doors in Gorilla World are in need of repair (ED1 & ED8) and requested they be fixed with particular attention being given to ED8. SFZS animal keeper Corey Hallman stated concern on two issues in the Lemur exhibit: (1) repair the pump system or moat to allow for water recirculation rather than a constant inflow; and, (2) that the hotwire around the exhibit be raised to keep raccoons from entering and to not bring in new animals until this repair is made. SFZS animal keeper Collette Chiparo recommended that SFZ add an additional keeper to the Bird section now rather than wait for the new exhibit to open. Former SFZ animal keeper Ms. Sylvia Stewart complimented the keepers in attendance for standing up for the rights of the animals in their care.

Commissioner Buell stated that he recognizes it takes courage for SFZS keepers to come forward with concerns but feeling this is not the forum for such and recommends that the Zoo Director report back to the Committee on the progress of these issues. SFZS Board Member

Secchia agrees that comments recorded should be addressed and reported upon by the Zoo Director. Member of Public Mark Ennis stated his concern for the lack of sensitivity for animal care from management and that funds should be spent on that first rather than updating other areas of the Zoo. Committee Member Secchia questioned if the care of the animals is not good how is it that Cobby is the oldest living chimpanzee in captivity? Committee Advisor Spinelli also congratulated staff for their comments but stated it should not be forgotten what a wonderful Zoo this currently is. He can remember when the animals were housed in tiny enclosures with no environmental enrichment. He has seen the management staff hired is in the forefront of trying to provide animal enrichment to the point that some of that money that was talked about, not from a bond issue, has been made available to hire a full-time staff for animal enrichment, exhibits improved and built, including Lemur Forest as well as the chimpanzees who were housed in tiny cages. He believes the Zoo's medical staff and wellness staffs are looking out for the well-being of the animals, and as a veterinarian himself, SFZS has a long standing veterinary staff that addresses the health needs of these animals.

**12. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.