

RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

March 28, 2013

San Francisco Zoological Society

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 (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 February 28, 2013 Committee Meeting

2. San Francisco Zoo Administrative Report (Discussion)

Tanya Peterson, Executive Director and President, SFZS

Director Peterson reported February attendance as 62,239 visitors versus monthly budget of 37,800. With respect to animal news, Peterson noted the Zoo's animal care staff recently began "to socialize" the 5-week-old Sumatran tiger cub to acclimate her to human sight and sounds.

This entails the caregiver interacting with the cub for short periods of time while the mother accesses the outside or adjacent habitat. For the public's convenience, a video feed has been set up so that visitors are able to watch the cub. On another note, the Zoo will be hosting its annual *Big Bunny Spring Fling*.

San Francisco Department of Animal Care and Control will be on-site with rescued bunnies. To prepare for the event, the Zoo hosted community Gatepath, an organization that helps disabled young adults transition to independence. Working with the Zoo's Enrichment Committee, the volunteers helped make papier-mâché eggs for *Big Bunny Spring Fling* event.

With respect to staff development, Peterson reported that since 1991, SFZS has been sending Zoo staff to field conservation programs. Selected staff members receive a complete stipend to participate, and their time away is paid for by the Zoo. Lastly, Peterson noted that the Zoo's *Adopt-an-Animal* program now includes a Sumatran tiger. For every Sumatran tiger adopted in April and May, SFZS will donate a percentage of the proceeds to tiger conservation.

Committee Advisor Stephens asked if after the Fleischhaker Building was torn down did that affect the sand and wind activity at the Zoo. Peterson answered that the Recreation and Parks staff has been working on a solution as part of the site's clean-up.

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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 – March 2013

DONATION TO:	ANIMAL SPECIES	PRICE	TOTAL DUE
Albuquerque BioPark 903 10 th Street SW Albuquerque, NM 87102	0.1 Reticulated giraffe <i>Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata</i>	NIL	N/A

DONATION FROM:

Soledad Freiheit 1233 Melanie Way Livermore, CA 94550	0.2 Old world rabbits <u>Oryctolagus cuniculus</u>	NIL	N/A
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Soledad Freiheit 1233 Melanie Way Livermore, CA 94550	1.3 Chinchillas <u>Chinchilla laniger</u>	NIL	N/A
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Albuquerque BioPark 903 10 th Street SW Albuquerque, NM 87102	0.1 Reticulated giraffe <u>Giraffa camelopardalis reticulate</u>	NIL	N/A
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PURCHASE FROM:

Miller Park Zoo 1020 S. Morris Avenue Bloomington, IL 61701	0.0.2 Gray short-tailed opossums <u>Monodelphis domestica</u>	\$300	\$600
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Note: Donation ratified in January 2013, cancelled:

RabbitEARS 7523 Fairmount Avenue El Cerrito, CA 94530	0.2 Old world rabbits <u>Oryctolagus cuniculus</u>		
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Committee Advisor Stephens asked if the Reticulated giraffe has arrived from Albuquerque. Bocian responded that it would arrive in May.

5. Animal Updates.

(Discussion)

David Bocian, VP Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS

ANIMAL UPDATES – FEBRUARY 2013					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
ACQUISITIONS					
10	0.1	Sumatran tiger	Birth		
13	0.1	Lady Ross'turaco	Donation	Private Party	
13	0.2	Mandrill	Donation	Tulsa Zoo	
DISPOSITION					
				Age at Death	
5	0.1	Virginia opossum	Donation		Returned to wildlife rehabber
13	0.1	South African shelduck	Donation		Fort Worth Zoo
15	1.0	White-faced whistling duck	Death	14Y, 8M, 13D	Abdominal mass/Paralysis
23	0.1	Common ostrich	Death	18Y, 8M, 21D	Bone tumor/Arthritis
28	0.1	Emperor tamarin	Loan Out		Santa Ana Zoo

Stephens asked why the opossum was returned. Response was that it had been in the ARC for several months and had not adapted and therefore could not be used for education programs. Member of Public, Mark Ennis, asked regarding the tiger cub, why is it separated from the mother and are there plans to reunite. Zoo President Peterson explained that the separation is for short periods of time, less than 15 minutes, when the mother goes outside or rests in an adjacent exhibit. VP Bocian also responded that the socialization is conducted by staff for ten to fifteen minutes. Ennis then asked if the cub is being bottle-fed or is nursing. VP Bocian responded that the cub is nursing, and that there had been no need for human intervention.

5. **Wellness Story**
Debbie Marrin-Towey, Assistant Curator of Carnivores, SFZS (Information only)
Marin-Towey presented a power point demonstrating the behavioral techniques used with the carnivores. This is a positive reinforcement system.
6. **Announcements** (Information only)
7. **Chair's Announcements.** (Information only)
Chair Alvarez will not be in attendance at the April 25th meeting.
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 the ARG submitted a proposal for study of the building and murals. The Historic Preservation Society is having a hearing and Supervisor Ting wants to see the building.
11. **Adjournment.**
Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.