

RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

March 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 Tom Harrison

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

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

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

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 February is 70,184 versus budget of 59,000 and over budget by 11,184 visitors. Actual year-to-date attendance is 606,639 and over budget by 78,639 visitors.

Free admissions year-to-date is 65,008 visitors.

Peterson announced that SFZ's spring campaigns will be highlighting animal "Tweeners" in the collection. This corresponds with the aim of attracting children in that age group of 10 – 14 year olds to come to the Zoo and enjoy activities geared to their age such as the current Ropes Course temporary exhibit. On April 19 the Zoo will be celebrating Earth Day and the 5th year anniversary of Greenie's Conservation Corner. April 22 will be the monthly Free Day for San Francisco residents.

Peterson reported an update on the chimps. Since the last meeting a generous donor has given SFZ a gift of \$1m to upgrade the chimp facility. After discussions with the donor on the possibility that in the future there may not be chimps at SFZ plans are being made to review the concept to include housing for other great apes, in particular orangutans. Concept plans were shown and hopes are other donors will come forward to help finance the plan. Spurred on by the attention given to chimp Cobby being the oldest living male chimpanzee in captivity, thoughts went to the other older animals at SFZ. At least five animals are "the oldest" in captivity. SFZ is highlighting these animals with signage explaining their behavior, age and adjustments made to their habitats to accommodate their advanced age.

Professional Development opportunities for staff at SFZ were reviewed including various conference attendance, "Earthwatch" program participation onsite, Wellness & Welfare classes at W.C.C., guest lecturers and leaves of absence for professional development. Other informal opportunities offered include monthly healthy breakfasts, employee biking program, "Working Side-by-side opportunities, Gallup's Strength Finders, Employee Movie Nights, Zoolights Night, Exhibit Previews and Special Events.

Peterson gave an update on the maintenance process at SFZ. It often begins with an employee passing along issues to the supervisor and a work order being created. Work orders are assigned as Tier 1, 2, or 3 by the Director of Operations. Regular meetings between AmDiv and Ops regarding prioritization are held as well as Internal Risk Management committee regarding

conflict resolution and Board Committee to review expenses, strategic plan, etc. Also staff participation is addressed by Safety and LMC committees. There exists an Animal Welfare Reporting Process and a “Whistleblower” Hotline.

Peterson addressed the specific items brought up last month during Public Comments. (1) Plans for Gorilla World layout were shown and reviewed. Input came from architects as well as advisor Dr. Terry Maples. Initial plans are to close two doors with the eventual plan to replace rising doors with sliding doors. This would decrease the number of doors from ten. A new electrical panel is installed and plans include for better keeper access. Slides were shown of the former and current panels. Three generous donors have come forward with funds to assist with this plan. Next were the two issues regarding the lemurs. (1) Raccoon roundworm or *Baylisascaris procyonis*, is carried by raccoons and impacts birds (parrots) and lemurs. SFZ Integrated Pest Management Plan included raccoon-proof trash receptacles and minimizing harborage areas in impacted areas, contraception for raccoons, minimizing food by removing food from “at risk” exhibits, instillation of Hot Wire in “at risk” exhibits and cameras installed for wildlife sightings. Parrot prevention includes installation of hot wire, prophylactic deworming of black parrots and relocation if possible. A decrease in raccoon activity was evident. (2) Recently a dead raccoon fell out of a tree and after examinations ruffed lemurs showed clinical signs of infection and are on medication. Responsive plan includes resuming prophylactic dewormers to ruffed lemurs, trees thinned out to decrease harborage, “torching” of grass in exhibit to kill eggs, focused “torching” in areas of exhibit perimeter trees and increasing the voltage of hot wiring. The issue of staffing in the South American exhibit had been brought up. Expert advice was given addressing both the exhibit itself and staffing issue. One point brought up was that more reptiles are being integrated into the exhibit and upon recommendation an Assistant Curator of Herpetology has been added to staff. Both a reptile keeper and bird keeper position are being posted.

Lastly, Peterson reported on the birth of a new Howler monkey. The father is Robin Williams named for the late comedian and the mother is named after San Francisco Giant Tim Lincecum.

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.

Committee member Harrison stated that he is pleased with the ambitious programming taking place. Committee member Secchia commented that May and June are going to be busy months at the Zoo with the Sculpture Garden and the Tropical Building opening. Member of Public Jenkins stated there are concerns regarding the gorilla doors as staff was not consulted about the changes. He stated it would help labor relations at SFZ if they were consulted on such issues. He would like to recommend participation of staff in such actions. Member of Public Colonnese stated that he wanted to compliment the attention being given to the geriatric animals, particularly the polar bears.

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 – March 2015

DONATION TO:	ANIMAL SPECIES	PRICE	TOTAL DUE
(Reported in February 2015) Chattanooga Zoo 301 N. Holtzclaw Avenue Chattanooga, TN 37404	1.0 Francois langur <i>Trachypitecus francoisi</i>	NIL	N/A

CORRECTION: THIS ANIMAL IS NOT GOING TO CHATTANOOGA ZOO IT IS GOING TO TWYXCROSS ZOO, DETAILS BELOW:

Twycross Zoo EastMidlandZoologicalSociety Burton Road Atherstone Warwickshire CV9 3PX United Kingdom	0.1 Francois langur <i>Trachypitecus francoisi</i>	NIL	N/A
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PURCHASE FROM:

Thode Family Farm 8308 Mill Station Road Sebastopol, CA 95472	1.2 domestic chickens <i>Gallus gallus domesticus</i>	\$15 each	\$45
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5. **Animal Updates.**

(Discussion)

David Bocian, VP Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS

ANIMAL UPDATES – FEBRUARY 2015					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
ACQUISITIONS					
10	0.5	Crested oropendola	Donation	Private Holder	
18	0.0.1	Aquatic caecilian	Donation	Fresno Zoo	
18	0.0.4	Green-and-black poison dart frog	Donation	Fresno Zoo	
18	0.0.4	Yellow-and-blue poison dart frog	Donation	Fresno Zoo	
18	0.0.4	Golfodulcean poison dart frog	Donation	Fresno Zoo	
18	0.0.1	Surinam toad	Donation	Fresno Zoo	
18	0.0.1	Caiman lizard	Donation	Fresno Zoo	
18	1.0	Emerald tree boa	Donation	Fresno Zoo	
18	0.1	Roseate spoonbill	Donation	Fresno Zoo	
18	1.0	Crocodile-bird (plover)	Loan Transfer	Toledo Zoo via Fresno Zoo	
DISPOSITION					
2	1.0	Queensland koala	Death	Age at Death 17Y,7M,29D	Chronic lung disease, degenerative heart

					disease
7	1.0	Helmeted guineafowl	Death	~18Y,1M,6D	Geriatric bird, pathologist report pending
15	1.0	Domestic chicken	Death	~11Y,3M,16D	Geriatric bird, pathologist report pending
17	1.0	Magellanic Penguin	Death	13Y,8M,27D	Chronic aspergillus infection (fungus)

Committee Member Asturias questioned why the Fresno Zoo is giving away so many animals. Bocian responded that Fresno has a very large reptile collection.

6. **Announcements** (Information only)
7. **Chair's Announcements.** (Information only)
8. **Old Business.** (Discussion)
None
9. **New Business/Future Agenda Items.** (Information only)
10. **Public Comments:**
SFZS animal keeper Chiparo wanted to thank the Committee for the matters addressed and the hiring/posting for additional positions. SFZS animal keeper Turowski commented on the length of quarantine animals are kept especially those from private individuals. Suggests reviewing the process of acquisitions. SFZS animal keeper Coles wanted to offer an alternative to the planned gorilla door plan and stated alternative suggestions. Member of Public Greene would like to see the pathway between the grizzly bears and hippos reopened. SFZS animal keeper Hallman submitted a document regarding animal welfare concerns and raising such concerns before the Committee which he feels have not been sufficiently addressed. Committee Advisor Spinelli addressed the issue that the Committee was addressed as the Board. He reiterated that the Committee is not the Board but an advisory committee with a specific charge of dealing with the disposition and acquisition of animals.
11. **Adjournment**
Meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.