

**RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT**

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

April 24, 2014

San Francisco City Hall, Room 416

2:00 p.m.

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

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Eric McDonnell, Chair  
Recreation and Park Commissioner Tom Harrison  
San Francisco Zoological Society (SFZS) Board Member, Maria Alvarez  
San Francisco Zoological Society (SFZS) Board Member, Gail Secchia  
Committee Advisor, Sally Stephens

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

Adoption of Minutes of the March 27, 2014 Committee Meeting.

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

Tanya Peterson, Executive Director & President, SFZS.

Ms. Peterson reported that attendance for the month of March was 71,031 visitors versus budget of 55,000. Year-to-date attendance is 642,093 versus budget of 565,800.

Peterson reported she had the honor of presenting the 2014 Dr. Hal Markowitz Award to Louis Dorfman, Chief Animal Behaviorist of 18 years at the International Exotic Animal Sanctuary in Texas. SFZS established this award to honor the late Dr. Markowitz and his lifelong work in animal enrichment. Louis Dorfman has spent his life working with rescued and orphaned wild animals and developed a method of working with these animals through a program he calls "Emotional Enrichment". His approach centers on positive reinforcement and a mutual respect.

Peterson reported that on April 11<sup>th</sup>, seven high school juniors and two adults from KIPP Collegiate in San Lorenzo experienced Career Day at the Zoo. KIPP is a national network of free, open-enrollment, college-preparatory public schools dedicated to preparing students in underserved communities for success in college and in life. Ken Pelto of the Zoo's education staff coordinated the day, which had the students learning about the Zoo's education programs, meeting with the carnivore staff, getting an overview of the Zoo as a nonprofit organization, and visiting the Hospital. Some of the students expressed interest in volunteering.

Peterson then reported that Professor-in-Residence, Dr. Terry Maple, wrote an op-ed on the subject of animal population control directly related to the decisions and actions taken by the Copenhagen Zoo. The *San Francisco Chronicle* ran the piece in the Sunday's "Insight" edition. Peterson thanked Dr. Maple for helping to share with the public SFZ's position on the matter and confirming the Zoo's commitment to wellness for all animals, not just the generically viable ones.

Lastly, Peterson reported that on Friday, April 25, *ZooFest 2014* will be held. This annual fundraiser for the Zoo will honor the Hearst family who has played such pivotal roles in the history and development of the Zoo.

**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 – April 2014**

<b>DONATION TO:</b>	<b>ANIMAL SPECIES</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>TOTAL DUE</b>
Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo 3701 S. 10 <sup>th</sup> Street Omaha, NE 68107	0.1 ocelot <i>Leopardus pardalis</i>	NIL	N/A
Zoo Boise 355 Julia Davis Drive Boise, ID 83702	1.0 Giant anteater <i>Myrmecophaga tridactyla</i>	NIL	N/A
<b>DONATION FROM:</b>			
Reid Park Zoo 1100 S. Randolph Way Tucson, AZ 85716	1.0 Blue bellied roller <i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>	NIL	N/A
Miller Park Zoo 1020 S. Morris Avenue Bloomington, IL 61701	0.1 Piping guan <i>Aburria pipile cumanensis</i>	NIL	N/A
<b>PURCHASE FROM:</b>			
Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo 3701 S. 10 <sup>th</sup> Street Omaha, NE 68107	0.1 Blue bellied roller <i>Coracias cyanogaster</i>	\$50	\$50

Committee Advisor Stephens questioned when an animal is donated does the Zoo retain ownership. Bocian responded that if the Zoo retained ownership it would be listed as a loan not a donation. Committee Member Secchia questioned where the ocelot is which is being donated. Bocian stated that this animal has been on loan since 2008, and as it will not be coming back to SFZ, this is transferring ownership to Doorly Zoo.

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

<b>ANIMAL UPDATES – MARCH 2014</b>					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
<b>ACQUISITIONS</b>					
18	1.0	Black howler	Loan	Audubon Zoo	
24	1.0	Red panda	Donation	Sacramento Zoo	
27	4.0	Green jay	Loan	Bronx Zoo	
<b>DISPOSITION</b>					
				<b>Age at Death</b>	
2	0.1	Reticulated giraffe	Death	11Y, 10M, 17D	Abdominal fluid, weight loss, pathologists report pending
8	1.0	Ougur buzzard	Donation		National Aviary, Pittsburg, PA.
13	1.0	Squirrel monkey	Death	20Y, 6M, 9D	Heart failure, cancer

- 6. Education Program Updates** (Information only)  
Joe Fitting, VP of Education & Conservation, SFZS  
VP Fitting gave a presentation on the various programs for youth offered at the San Francisco Zoo. These include new, innovative STEM programs, Observe to Learn, and iPad App introducing users to the study of animal behavior. There is a broad range of audiences and programs, including ARC Staff/volunteer raptor study, Talk on the Wild Side youth volunteer, Zoo Teaching Assistant youth volunteers and Zoo Camp student, Zoo Crew youth volunteers, Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep High School, Denman Middle School/Zooforce, Wild About Art & Science which connects SFUSD elementary students to CA biodiversity through interdisciplinary lesson plans, including art and science.  
Committee Member Secchia asked if the art work in the Wild About Art & Science program is displayed. Fitting said that the pictures are displayed in the foyer of the education center onsite at the Zoo. Committee Advisor Stephens suggested that with STEM programs, concentration on women in sciences would encourage girls to pursue careers. Commissioner McDonnell asked if the possibility of making the various technologies available to parents has been explored to help reinforce what the students are learning. Fitting responded that this would be something to investigate.
- 7. Announcements** (Information only)  
None
- 8. Chair's Announcements.** (Information only)  
Commissioner McDonnell stated that in the matter of the issues raised by Local 856 regarding safety concerns, he has met with the bargaining unit and management team and progress is being made. He wants to thank all those involved in these discussions.
- 9. Old Business.** (Discussion)  
None
- 10. New Business/Future Agenda Items.** (Information only)  
Commissioner McDonnell asked how the program presentations are chosen for the agenda. He stated that he has appreciated the insights and information given at these meetings. Director Peterson answered that she tries to choose items that are current and exciting. McDonnell asked are there adult programs available. Peterson said that the Docent program is for adult volunteers and is quite successful.
- 11. Public Comments:**  
None
- 12. Adjournment.**  
Meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.