

RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

April 25, 2013

San Francisco Zoological Society

5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Paige Arata, Acting Chair

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Mark Buell

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Larry Martin

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

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

Committee Advisor, Sally Stephens

Acting Chair, Arata announced that Item #7 has been removed from the agenda and will be continued to a future meeting.

2. Joint Zoo Committee Meeting Minutes (Action Item)

ACTION: MSA

Adoption of Minutes of the March 28, 2013 Committee Meeting

3. San Francisco Zoo Administrative Report (Discussion)

Tanya Peterson, Executive Director and President, SFZS

Director Peterson reported March attendance as 82,944 visitors versus monthly budget of 54,000.

With respect to animal news, Peterson announced the birth of two San Clemente Island goats.

They will be on display in the Red Barn at the Fisher Family Children's Zoo. Also, she

congratulated Zoo's animal staff on performing an "awake" echocardiogram (cardiac ultrasound)

on the Zoo's 32-year-old silverback gorilla patriarch. With respect to events, Peterson noted over

6000 visitors attended the Zoo's Earth Day festivities, *Slow Down for the Planet*. With respect to

exhibits, Peterson noted the Zoo's *Dinosaur Revolution: Live Large*, is closing on May 12, and

for the summer, the Zoo will host *Travesia: Journey of the Gray Whale* in partnership with the

Mexican consulate. Peterson then discussed the upcoming Mother's Day promotion.

Joint Zoo Committee member Secchia asked for the attendance figures for the dinosaur exhibit.

Peterson answered that while those figures were not yet compiled, general attendance for the Zoo was over budget, indicating success with the exhibit.

Member of Public, Mark Ennis, asked who is in charge of the City website postings as he could

not locate the Meeting Notice/Agenda on it. Clerk stated that the agenda was forwarded and

posted to the City website on Friday with the amended agenda posted on Monday. Ennis stated he

could not find it. Clerk will check with the City.

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 2013

DONATION TO: ANIMAL SPECIES PRICE TOTAL DUE

Mesker Park Zoo 1.0 Northern greater galago NIL N/A
1545 Mesker Park Drive Otolemur garnettii

DONATION FROM:

Julia Brown 1.0 Blue-tongued skink NIL N/A
591 Connecticut Street Tiliqua scinoides
San Francisco, CA 94107

Central Park Zoo 2.0 Satyr tragopan NIL N/A
830 5th Avenue Tragopan satyra
New York, NY 10021

Central Park Zoo 1.1 Himalayan monal NIL N/A
830 5th Avenue Lophophorus impejanus
New York, NY 10021

Birmingham Zoo 1.0 Red-fronted lemur NIL N/A
2630 Cahaba Road Eulemur rufifrons
Birmingham, AL 35223-3544

Busch Gardens Tampa 0.1 Red-fronted lemur NIL N/A
PO Box 9158 Eulemur rufifrons
Tampa, FL 33674-9158

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

ANIMAL UPDATES – MARCH 2013					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
ACQUISITIONS					
5	1.3	Long-tailed chinchilla	Donation	Private Party	
5	0.2	European rabbit	Donation	Private Party	
5	1.1	Western toad	Donation	Oregon Zoo	
28	0.0.3	Blue-headed macaw	Loan	Bronx Zoo	
DISPOSITION					
6	1.0	Hadada ibis	Donation	Age at Death	Staten Island Zoo
11	0.1	South African black duck	Death	18Y, 11M, 4D	pending
16	0.1	Cochin chicken	Death	8Y, 2M, 11D	pending
26	3.2	Chilean flamingoes	Donation		Ellen Trout Zoo
26	2.1.3	Chilean flamingoes	Donation		Sequoia Park Zoo

Member of Public, Mark Ennis, questioned donation of the flamingoes at this time. Bocian responded that there was no need for SFZ to retain ownership as the animals had lived at the facilities for years and would not be coming back to SFZ.

6. **Admission Fee Increase, as amended** **ACTION: MSAA**
Discussion and possible action to recommend that the Recreation and Park Commission approve the following transactions:

“San Francisco Zoological Society seeks \$2 price increase (amended) in all admission categories to the San Francisco Zoo on or after September 1, 2013.”

SFZS CFO Wayne Reading presented a proposal for approval of an admission fee increase in all categories for the San Francisco Zoo. The increase would go into effect on or after September 1, 2013. (PPT)

Commissioner Buell questioned the procedure for approval of this motion. Zoo Director Peterson replied that under the Lease-Management agreement, the motion first is presented to the Joint Zoo Committee for recommendation and possible action. It then proceeds to the Recreation & Park Commission for final approval.

Commissioner Buell then commended CFO Reading on his compilation and presentation. Buell made the suggestion that the increase be \$2.00, instead of \$1.95 as originally proposed, as it could be problematic for cash handling efficiencies.

Committee Member Secchia also commended the report and asked if all categories of admission were taken into consideration. Reading stated yes.

Member of Public, Richard Rothman, asked if the Muni discount accepted Clipper Card for proof as well as individual cash receipt. Reading responded yes. Rothman also questioned the figures for union retirement and health contributions. Reading stated the figures were received from SF Rec and Park and SFZS HR departments.

Member of Public, Mark Ennis, stated he felt the vote should not take place today as the agenda was not posted on City website. Also, he questioned the amounts shown as the Zoo received a “bailout” on utility bill a couple of years ago. Reading responded that was inaccurate. The Zoo was allotted a long-term note payable and pays the note timely.

Commissioner Buell made a motion to amend proposal to request a \$2.00 admission fee increase in all categories for the San Francisco Zoo. The motion was seconded and approved as amended. (MSAA)

7. **Status Report on Mother’s Building** **ITEM REMOVED**
SF Arts Commission/Recreation & Parks Department
Status update on Mother’s Building and murals.
8. **Announcements** (Information only)
None
9. **Chair’s Announcements.** (Information only)
None
10. **Old Business.** (Discussion)
None
11. **New Business/Future Agenda Items.** (Information only)
12. **Public Comments:**

Member of Public, Tony Colonnese, stated that he would recommend the Zoo consider night care for the animals by trained keepers.

Member of Public, Richard Rothman, stated that the agenda was posted and is on the City website; however, the website is confusing to access. He also stated that he was disappointed that the presentation on the Mother's Building was removed from agenda and hopes it will be rescheduled soon.

13. Adjournment.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.