

## RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

April 23, 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 Gloria Bonilla  
San Francisco Zoological Society (SFZS) Board Member, Gail Secchia  
San Francisco Zoological Society (SFZS) Board Member, Wayne Reading  
Committee Advisor, Sally Stephens  
Committee Advisor, Joseph Spinelli

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

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

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

Tanya Peterson, Executive Director & President SFZS.

Peterson reported attendance for March is 82,648 versus budget of 62,000 and over budget by 20,648 visitors. Free admission for the month was 8,960. Actual year-to-date attendance is 689,287 and over budget by 99,287 visitors. Free admissions year-to-date is 73,966 visitors.

Peterson announced on May 10<sup>th</sup>, Mother's Day, free admission will be given to Moms who accompany their children to the Zoo. May 16 is Endangered Species Day. The Zoo will be acknowledging animals in the collection which are on the list of endangered species. As other AZA institutions are doing one exhibit of an endangered animal will be closed to demonstrate what the world would be like without this species. SFZ will be closing the Komodo dragon exhibit.

Peterson reported an update on the South American Exhibit. The remodel of the WPA Aviary building is a cost of \$6.5million. An Avian Expert for birds has been engaged by the Zoo. Eighty animals will inhabit the exhibit consisting of birds and reptiles. Hiring is being done for two Assistant Curators, Avian and Reptiles as well as job posting for new (2.5) animal keepers. Target dates are moving the animals to the new home in May and opening of the exhibit in the summer 2015.

Peterson also stated that an increase in admission prices is being considered beginning in the summer 2015. A comparison of admission prices as of March 2015 of family-friendly activities in the Bay Area was presented showing SFZ being underpriced. Current California Zoo pricing showed SFZ being the lowest in admission fees to San Diego, Los Angeles and Oakland Zoos. Peterson also gave comparisons of weekday/weekend and peak season/off season pricing.

Peterson announced that this year's Hal Markowitz Wellness Award will go to the Head of the Moor Park College. Peterson announced that Committee Advisor Stephens will be vacating her position on the Committee. She thanked her for her dedication and participation. Committee Advisor Spinelli stated it has been a great pleasure being on the Committee with Ms. Stephens.

Commissioner Bonilla questioned with the increase what is the additional revenue slated for. Peterson responded it is for general operation expenses. Bonilla asked what the revenue goal is. Reading answered that at this time SFZ is not at that level but it is the cost of doing business. Commissioner McDonnell questioned when the last increase was initiated. Reading responded

that it was two years ago. He explained that SFZ is required to give 90 day notice before implementation which this is. Figures will now be compared, examined and then the actual proposal will be presented to the Committee. McDonnell questioned how visitor input is acquired. Peterson responded that visitor surveys are conducted throughout the year as well as email and questionnaire forms being submitted.

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 2015**

<b>DONATION TO:</b>	<b>ANIMAL SPECIES</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>TOTAL DUE</b>
Busch Gardens Tampa Bay PO Box 9158 Tampa, FL 33674	1.0 Hamerkop <i>Scopus umbretta</i>	NIL	N/A

<b>DONATION FROM:</b> Busch Gardens Tampa Bay PO Box 9158 Tampa, FL 33674	1.0 Hamerkop <i>Scopus umbretta</i>	NIL	N/A
--	--	-----	-----

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens 370 Zoo Parkway Jacksonville, FL 32218	1.0 Blue throated piping guan <i>Pipile cumanensis</i>	NIL	N/A
---	---	-----	-----

Tri-City Animal Shelter 1950 Stevenson Blvd. Fremont, CA 94538	0.1 Domestic polecat(ferret) <i>Mustela putorius furo</i>	NIL	N/A
--	--	-----	-----

<b>PURCHASE FROM:</b> Thode Family Farm 8308 Mill Station Road Sebastopol, CA 95472	0.3 domestic chickens <i>Gallus gallus domesticus</i>	\$15 each	\$45
--	--	-----------	------

Commissioner McDonnell questioned why the swapping of the Hamerkops. Bocian responded this is a breeding recommendation.

5. **Animal Updates.**

(Discussion)

David Bocian, VP Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS

<b>ANIMAL UPDATES – MARCH 2015</b>					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
<b>ACQUISITIONS</b>					
4	0.1	Lady Ross' turaco	Donation	Birmingham Zoo	
6	0.0.1	Hadada ibis	Birth	Hatched at SFZ	
8	0.0.1	Hadada ibis	Birth	Hatched at SFZ	
16	0.0.1	black howler	Birth	Born at SFZ	

		<b>DISPOSITION</b>		<b>Age at Death</b>	
11	0.0.1	Hadada ibis	Death	<b>0Y, 0M, 3S</b>	Parental neglect
14	0.1	Helmeted guinea fowl	Death	<b>~18Y, 2M, 13D</b>	Liver cancer
16	0.1	Emperior tamarin	Death	<b>13Y, 3M, 6D</b>	Heart & kidney failure
18	0.0.1	Hadada ibis	Death	<b>0Y, 0M, 0D</b>	Food impaction
22	0.0.1	White's tree frog	Death	<b>~7Y, 9M, 21D</b>	Liver disease pathologist report pending
23	1.0	Haitian giant galliwasp	Death	<b>14Y, 7M, 16D</b>	Pathologist report pending

6. **Veterinary Update on Geriatric Animals** (Information only)  
 Dr. Graham Crawford, Chief of Veterinary Services, SFZS  
 Dr. Crawford gave a presentation on SFZ geriatric program. SFZ has a large number of long-lived animals in the collection and he believes the reason for these geriatric animals is the lifelong care received. Lifelong care isn't just veterinary care but social structure, diet, environmental habitats. Dr. Crawford reviewed various geriatric animals in the collection and the care received. Conditions being treated include arthritis, heart, thyroid, colon, teeth, and general aging diseases. Secchia asked how it is known that a gorilla has a root canal problem. Crawford responded that under regular examination the mass was discovered and root canal was performed by a human dentist.
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:**  
 SFZ animal keeper Irene Donovan requested that the vacant HR Director position be filled. The position has been vacant for two years and in that time it is felt that HR related issues have not been given the attention needed to expedite solutions. She also suggested that being as some of SFZ employees work until 5:30 it would be convenient if the Committee meeting time could be changed.
12. **Adjournment**  
 Meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.