

RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

May 22, 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 Mark Buell
San Francisco Zoological Society (SFZS) Board Member, Maria Alvarez
San Francisco Zoological Society (SFZS) Board Member, Gail Secchia
San Francisco Zoological Society (SFZS) Board Member, Elena Asturias
Committee Advisor, Sally Stephens

2. Joint Zoo Committee Meeting Minutes (Action Item)

ACTION: MSA

Adoption of Minutes of the April 24, 2014 Committee Meeting.

3. San Francisco Zoo Administrative Report (Discussion)

Tanya Peterson, Executive Director & President, SFZS.

Ms. Peterson reported that Year-to-date attendance through May 18th is 777,535 versus budget of 708,000 and over budget by 69,000 visitors.

In exhibit news, on May 7th at a special ceremony for Guardian-level families and media, the name of SFZ resident red panda was announced. The name, Tenzing, was announced by Zoo Emeritus Board member and Bay Area philanthropist Barry Lipman. Tenzing is named after the famed Sherpa Tenzing Norgay who scaled Mount Everest with sir Edmund Hillary. Among other VIP's present was Pete Nelson, the star of the Animal Planet show *Treehouse Masters*, who came to see how his first four-legged client is enjoying his new tree house. The *Treehouse Master* show featuring the Zoo is scheduled to air on June 6. Press on Tenzing the red panda went national and international several times with big media hits from all TV networks and their affiliates as well as print coverage in a number of publications. The Zoo is also working with Red and White Fleet to promote his arrival. In a cross-promotion campaign called "Want More Red and White Adventure?" visitors can enter for a chance to win a pair of tickets on Red and White Fleet via a Zoo-run Trivia Tuesday Facebook contest. Red and White Fleet will display 12 posters on some of their boats featuring him as well.

The Zoo's next special exhibition, Washed Ashore, will open Memorial Day Weekend. A project of The Artula Institute for Arts & Environmental Education, *Washed Ashore* is a collection of spectacular, giant sea life sculptures made with debris that has "washed ashore." This project creates awareness about marine debris and plastic pollution.

The Zoo hosted a special overnight event as one of over 18 organizations in the Leadership & Evaluation to Advance Program Success (LEAPS) for Environmental Literacy cohort. The LEAPS Initiative provides professional development and technical assistance to organizations working with young people.

The most popular family event at the San Francisco Zoo, KidsFest, returns Friday, June 6. This event includes wildlife presentations, live music, dancing, face painting, magicians, and arts and crafts as well as private access to the Zoo's attractions.

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 – May 2014**

DONATION TO:	ANIMAL SPECIES	PRICE	TOTAL DUE
Columbus Zoo 9990 Riverside Drive PO Box 400 Powell, OH 43065	0.1 mandrill <i>Mandrillus sphinx</i>	NIL	N/A
Edmonton Valley Zoo PO Box 2359 Edmonton, Alberta Canada; T5J 2R7	1.0.2 Red-necked wallabies <i>Macropus rufogriseus</i>	NIL	N/A

Commissioner McDonnell questioned if transactions are not approved what the status is of the animals at other Zoo's. Bocian explained that if SFZ retained ownership it would be listed as a loan not a donation. McDonnell asked why the requested change of status for these animals. Bocian stated that in the case of the mandrill, she is a 20 year old animal and will not be returning to SFZ as she is in a stable situation at the Columbus Zoo. Regarding the wallabies, this male had been loaned to increase the breeding population at Edmonton and as we have a breeding group in San Francisco we are transferring his ownership to Edmonton Valley Zoo.

Director Peterson also stated that such transfers remove liability for the animal from SFZ to the receiving zoo and gives that zoo authority to make decisions regarding the animals care.

5. **Animal Updates.**

(Discussion)

David Bocian, VP Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS

ANIMAL UPDATES – APRIL 2014					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
ACQUISITIONS					
3	2.2	White ibis	Donation	From St. Louis Zoo	
7	1.0.2	Chacoan peccary	Birth	On Loan from government of Paraguay	
9	0.0.1	Patas monkey	Birth		
10	1.0	Linne's two-toed sloth	Donation	From Tulsa Zoo	
29	0.0.4	Chacoan peccary	Birth	On Loan from government of Paraguay	
DISPOSITION					
9	1.0	goat	Death	Age at Death 12Y, 10M, 7D	Chronic arthritis
10	1.0	San Francisco garter snake	Death	9Y, 10M, 3D	Kidney failure
25	0.1	Budgerigar	Death	~8Y, 7M, 24D	Liver/kidney disease
29	0.0.1	Chacoan peccary	Death	0Y, 0M, 0D	Still born

6. **Adult Volunteer Programs & Opportunities** (Information only)
Joe Fitting, VP of Education & Conservation, SFZ
VP Fitting gave a presentation on the various programs for adults offered at the San Francisco Zoo. These programs include over 200 volunteers assisting in various sections of the Zoo, including Children's Zoo, ARC, Insect Zoo, Hospital, Penguin Recorder and Special Events. The Docent Program started in 1968. These volunteers attend a 13 week training program. They interact with the visitors and school groups. Renew the Zoo is another volunteer program for adults in which they participate in maintenance around the Zoo. Adults may also attend various programs offered at the Zoo including Senior Stroll, Bird Walks, Wildlife Illustration classes and Conservation Lecture Series.
Committee Member Secchia stated that there are 77 active Docents at this time and this program helps the Zoo's mission in connecting people with wildlife. Committee Advisor Stephens stated that her first experience with SFZ Docent years ago had a major effect on her. She had many questions and the docent she spoke to spent time answering her. She stated that this is a very useful program and hopes it continues. Member of the Public, Edna James, asked what the cost is for the lecture series and is it handicap accessible. Fitting responded there is no cost for the series and it is accessible.
7. **Announcements** (Information only)
None
8. **Chair's Announcements.** (Information only)
Commissioner McDonnell congratulated Director Peterson and zoo staff on an amazing, fantastic and successful *Zoofest 2014*.
9. **Old Business.** (Discussion)
None
10. **New Business/Future Agenda Items.** (Information only)
None
11. **Public Comments:**
None
12. **Adjournment.**
Meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.