

**RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT**

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

May 23, 2013

San Francisco Zoological Society

5:00 p.m.

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

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Paige Arata

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Larry Martin

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

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

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 April 25, 2013 Committee Meeting

**3. San Francisco Zoo Veterinary Report.**

(Information only)

Graham Crawford, Chief Veterinary Services, SFZ

Dr. Crawford gave an overview of the Zoo's wellness health program, which includes wellness evaluations; life stage evaluations which generally include a full physical exam, x-rays, and lab tests; acute and emergency care; intermittent care such as dental cleaning; aging animal care; nutrition program, and the care of animals offsite or not in the Zoo's collection including the Bison in Golden Gate Park, animals at the Randall Museum, and, at times, triage to Ocean Beach animals and local wildlife. He also stated that at times veterinary and human consultants help with specialized procedures such as surgery and root canals. Alternative medical procedures are employed such as acupuncture on arthritic goats and sheep. Medical behavior training is done so there is a decreased need to anesthetize animals for diagnostic tests. For example, awake ultrasound exams are used to evaluate gorilla heart health and diagnose pregnancy in the Sumatran tiger.

Committee member Secchia asked if annual examinations are advisable when anesthesia is necessary. Crawford responded that the practice of annual anesthetized exams is not thought to be necessary or performed in most animals, particularly with the progress being made in awake medical behavior training.

Member of Public Ennis stated that he recalled that every six months the Chief Veterinarian would present an updated list of the causes of death of various animals whose results were pending at the monthly meetings and requested this be done again. Ennis said he had copies of the report and would bring to the next meeting.

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

Tanya Peterson, Executive Director and President, SFZS

Director Peterson reported April attendance as 91,297 visitors versus monthly budget of 80,000 and over budget by 14%. As of May 20<sup>th</sup>, year to date attendance is 744,000 visitors and over budget by 15%. Regarding exhibits, Peterson reported minor renovation is occurring at the western end of polar bear exhibit, so that a polar bear can use both grottos. Also, a small fountain can now be seen in the Upper Lake near Pelican Beach. This step was made to improve pond management as well as create additional movement and help cycle the water. This new fountain should provide a healthy balance and prevent algae build-up. Over 6000 visitors came to the Zoo

to celebrate Mother's day. Over 1600 of those visitors were Mothers and Grandmothers who received free admission to the Zoo. This upcoming Memorial Day weekend, the Zoo is both honoring the country's veterans as well as encouraging a little wellness, conservation and fun with its visitors. The Zoo will offer 50% off admission to both active and retired veterans. Red Rover is sponsoring *Hullabazoo* with activities including an inflatable playhouse, obstacle course and a climbing wall. This year, the Zoo covered its annual safety training during National Volunteer Week. During the training, Zoo staff reviewed key information such as what to do in case of an earthquake, tsunami, major medical emergency, lost children and animal escapes. On other news, *ZooFest*, the Zoo's annual fundraiser, was an outstanding success. The new tiger cub received her name, Jillian, after longtime Zoo supporter, Jillian Manus. *Travesia: Journey of the Gray Whale* opens to the public on June 8. This is an exciting bi-lingual, multi-media show that explores the lifecycle and migration patterns of gray whales.

5. **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 2013**

DONATION TO:	ANIMAL SPECIES	PRICE	TOTAL DUE
Louisville Zoological Garden 1100 Trevilian Way Louisville, KY 40213	3.3 Chilean flamingoes <i>Phoenicopterus chilensis</i>	NIL	N/A
Detroit Zoological Society 8450 W. 10 Mile Rd. Royal Oak, MI 48067	1.0 Lion-tailed macaque <i>Macaca silenus</i>	NIL	N/A

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

ANIMAL UPDATES – APRIL 2013					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
<b>ACQUISITIONS</b>					
9	2.2	Black parrots	Loan In	Private Party	
14	0.0.1	Chacoan peccary	Birth		
18	1.1	San Clemente goat	Birth		
22	0.0.1	Fishing cat	Birth		
23	1.0	Red-fronted lemur	Donation	Birmingham Zoo	
26	1.0	Blue-tongued skink	Donation	Private Party	
<b>DISPOSITION</b>					
2	1.0	Goat	Death	<b>Age at Death</b> 11Y, 5M, 3D	Thoracic cancer
8	1.0	Red kangaroo	Death	<b>19Y, 1M, 24D</b>	Kidney failure; Metastatic cancer
11	0.1	Tiger salamander	Death	<b>~12Y, 10M, 24D</b>	Hyperthemia

13	0.1	Lady Ross' turaco	Death	<b>0Y, 10M, 17D</b>	Trauma/liver fracture
14	0.1	Goat	Death	<b>8Y, 11M, 6D</b>	Rectal cancer
14	0.0.1	Chacoan peccary	Death	<b>0Y, 0M, 0D</b>	Trauma
16	0.1	Mandrill	Loan Out		Loan transfer-Houston Zoo
20	0.1	Barrow's goldeneye	Disappeared	<b>14Y, 10M, 29D</b>	No remains found
20	1.0	Black & white ruffed lemur	Death	<b>23Y, 11M, 12D</b>	Liver cancer
23	1.0	Northern greater galago	Donation		Mesker Park Zoo
26	0.0.1	Fishing cat	Death	<b>0Y, 0M, 4D</b>	Maternal Trauma
29	1.0	Sheep	Death	<b>12Y, 1M, 4D</b>	Arthritis and spinal disease
29	0.1	Lion-tailed macaque	Death	<b>24Y, 11M, 15D</b>	Complicated diabetes

Curator Corrine MacDonald was asked to review the death of the Fishing Cat. Committee Member Secchia asked if the Zoo has had successful births previously. MacDonald stated both the National Zoo and SFZ are the facilities that have had successful births. In this case, viewing cameras were installed to view the nesting box. All seemed to be doing well but then the kitten's behavior became suspect and staff felt they should intervene. When attempting this there was trauma to the kitten by the mother possibly in an effort to keep the kitten from staff. While there was trauma it was found that the kitten had ingested some of the nesting material which had lodged in the soft pallet. Committee Advisor Stephens asked if the cat would have died anyway. MacDonald answered she could not say that. Stephens asked if this was the same mother who gave birth six months ago and lost the kitten. MacDonald stated it is but cameras were not installed at that time.

Member of Public Ennis asked about the death of the Tiger salamander from hyperthermia. Curator Gomez stated it was felt that the death could have occurred due to overheating when the animal was displayed to the public through outreach programming.

7. **Announcements** (Information only)  
None
8. **Chair's Announcements.** (Information only)  
None
9. **Old Business.** (Discussion)  
None
10. **New Business/Future Agenda Items.** (Information only)
11. **Public Comments:**  
Committee Advisor Stephens stated she recalled something similar to what Member of Public Ennis had said about detailed report of deaths.
12. **Adjournment.**  
Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.