

## RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

June 2, 2015, 11:00 a.m.

San Francisco Zoo, Lurie Education Center

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Recreation and Park Commissioner Mark Buell

Recreation and Park Commissioner Tom Harrison

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

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

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

Committee Advisor, Joseph Spinelli

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

**ACTION: MSA**

Adoption of Minutes of the April 23, 2015 Committee Meeting.

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

Joe Fitting, Deputy Director SFZS.

Fitting reported attendance through May 26<sup>th</sup> is 77,185 and exceeds budget by 1,485 visitors. year-to-date attendance is 852,228 and over budget by 96,528 visitors or 12.28%.

Fitting announced on June 6<sup>th</sup> the brand new Sculpture Learning Plaza will open. This unique place provides children an incredible opportunity to encounter the wonders of nature in a whole new way through animal sculptures where they can touch, pose with and explore the diversity of the animal kingdom. The representative specimens, in the forms of realistic sculptures featuring animals not found at the Zoo, include casts of real animals, skeletons, fossils and more. This is an extremely tactile exhibit and displays the biodiversity of the animal world.

Fitting was sad to announce that Pike, the San Francisco Zoo's 32-year old female polar bear, passed away of complications from multiple geriatric medical conditions. Pike was deeply loved by guests and Zoo Staff. She served as a wonderful ambassador for her endangered species, aweing observers with her beauty, her grace, and her playfulness. Pike was loved to swim in her pool, to catch fish, and enjoyed treats such as the "snow days" when her enclosure was filled with artificially created frozen snow.

Fitting announced on two of the Zoo's youth programs. The 39<sup>th</sup> summer of Nature Trail opens on June 6. The staff of the Koret Animal resource Center just completed training 120 students. Sixty new students attended a mandatory 3-day training session, which culminated in a 3-hour "mock nature trail," with older mentors at each station. The 60 returning students attended a one-day refresher training course. On Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, the final Zoo Crew meeting of the 2014-15 season took place at Lake Merced in San Francisco. The Zoo Crew is a group of 11-14 year-old volunteers who commit one Saturday a month to do habit restoration projects such as planting native plants, weeding, watering and more.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Endangered Species, the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) publicly launched SAFE: Saving Animals From Extinction, a new global initiative which brings entire AZA-accredited zoo and aquarium community together to focus our conservation science, our wildlife expertise and our 180 million visitors on saving species in the wild. Members were asked to help the public consider what it would be like to never be able to see, learn from or connect with these incredible animals again. SFZ chose to close and cover the Komodo dragon

enclosure, underwritten by Emeritus Board Member Barry Lipman, to demonstrate just how profound the loss would be if we don't protect threatened wildlife.

Lastly, Fitting told the story of Madison Eade who just turned 8 years old. Instead of dreaming of a princess or skating party with her friends, she asked all of her guests to donate money to the Zoo in lieu of birthday presents. When asked why she chose the Zoo, she said that she really wanted to help the animals and hope that the money will help species survival. Her parents gave her the choice of any organization to receive the money and she chose the Zoo after participating in Zoo Camp last summer. Madison said she really enjoyed her time her and learned so much about the animals. Her total donation was \$820.00.

4. **Animal Transactions.** (Action Item)

**ACTION: MSA**

Ingrid Russell-White, Curator of Collections, 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 2015**

<b>DONATION TO:</b>	<b>ANIMAL SPECIES</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>TOTAL DUE</b>
White Oak Conservation Center 581705 White Oak Road Yulee, FL 32097	1.0 Southern ground hornbill <i><u>Bucorvus leadbeateri</u></i>	NIL	N/A
Detroit Zoological Society 8450 W. 10 Mile Road Royal Oak, MI 48067	0.0.1 Pacific/Western pond turtle <i><u>Actinemys marmorata</u></i>	NIL	N/A
<b>DONATION FROM:</b> Michelle Parenti 1657 Lillian Street Brentwood, CA 94513	0.0.1 Pacific/Western pond turtle <i><u>Actinemys marmorata</u></i>	NIL	N/A
<b>PURCHASE FROM:</b> Peninsula Humane Society 12 Airport Blvd. San Mateo, CA 94401	0.2 Domestic guinea pigs <i><u>Cavia porcellus</u></i>	\$15 each	\$30
Metzer Farms 26000 Old Stage Road Gonzales, CA 93926	2.8 Indian runner ducks <i><u>Anas platyrhynchos laysa</u></i>	\$8 each	\$80

5. **Animal Updates.** (Discussion)  
Ingrid Russell-White, Curator of Collections, SFZS

ANIMAL UPDATES – APRIL 2015					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
<b>ACQUISITIONS</b>					
1	0.0.4	Smoky jungle frog	Donation	From Houston Zoo	
2	2.0	Red ruffed lemur	Donation	From Fresno Zoo	
28	0.0.4	Black-tailed prairie dog	Birth	Pups emerged from dens-estimated six weeks old	
29	1.0	Linne’s two-toed sloth	Loan	From Ellen Trout Zoo	
<b>DISPOSITION</b>					
				<b>Age at Death</b>	
13	0.1	Domestic guinea pig	Death	~4Y, 1M, 21D	Seizure disorder, pathology report pending
15	0.1	Francois’ langur	Death	20Y, 6M, 1D	Oral cancer, squamous cell carcinoma
16	3.0	Chacoan peccary	Loan Transfer		To Sequoia Park Zoo
18	1.0	Red ruffed lemur	Death	23Y, 11M, 12D	Progressive chronic neurological disease, pathology report pending
18	0.1	Domestic polecat (ferret)	Death	4Y, 4M, 13D	Chronic intestinal disease, gastric ulceration, pathology report pending
25	0.1	Roseate spoonbill	Death	11Y, 10M, 7D	Trauma

Board Member Secchia questioned how the loan of the sloth worked – is it open ended. Russell-White answered that yes it is an open ended loan and will be here indefinitely.

6. **Admission Fee Increase** **ACTION: MSA**

Wayne Reading, CFO, SFZS

Discussion and action to approve an increase to the admission fees at the San Francisco Zoo. Reading presented the proposal to increase admission fees. The increase would be two-tiered or what is currently called dynamic pricing, fees increasing by \$2.00 during the months from October through March and by \$3.00 during the months from April through September. The increase would not affect free admission for children 3 and under; 12 monthly free days for San Francisco residents; MUNI rider discount; free access for Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) and free access for SF Unified School District (SFUSD). This proposed change to the admission fees at the Zoo is being made per Section 15.6 of the Lease Management Agreement: admission fees at comparable zoos in other locations; admission fees at other City facilities open to the general public; level of operating expenses at the Zoo; changes to the Consumer Price Index and factors affecting labor costs at the Zoo. The last fee increase was in 2013 with the previous increase in 2008. Reading reviewed the various areas which contributed to the proposed fee increase.

Commissioner Harrison questioned how this increase would affect membership. Reading responded that there is going to be a proposed increase in membership levels going into effect on June 6.

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:**  
Zoological Board Member Alvarez stated that the Sculpture Garden is a very good exhibit and learning experience.
12. **Adjournment**  
Meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

DRAFT