

**RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT**

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

July 24, 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 Tom Harrison  
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  
Committee Advisor, Joseph Spinelli

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

**ACTION: MSA**

Adoption of Minutes of the June 26, 2014 Committee Meeting.

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

Joe Fitting, VP Education and Conservation, SFZS.

Mr. Fitting reported attendance for twenty-one days of July is 72,200 versus budget of 73,100 and under budget by 900 visitors. Actual admission revenue for the month of July to date is \$592,325 and is over budget by \$25,000 with admission revenue per cap over budget by \$.44.

The Zoo's Vice President of Animal Wellness and Behavior, Dr. Jason Watters, has authored "Searching for Behavioral Indicators of Welfare in Zoos: Uncovering Anticipatory Behavior". This commentary will be published in the journal *Zoo Biology*. The paper describes a new approach to understanding zoo animal welfare. In it, Watters calls upon researchers to begin developing approaches centered on understanding how animals indicate their own perceptions of balance in their lives.

Last week the Zoo held the grand (petite) ribbon-cutting of its newly renovated Mouse House, which was made extra fun with the help of some enthusiastic Zoo Campers. Over the last few weeks, the exhibit was renovated for a general upgrade and to provide more vertical space for the mice, since they like to climb. There are 12 female house mice rooming together comfortably in this new mansion.

The Education Department recently hosted career days for students affiliated with two local non-profits: First Graduate and Summerbridge. Both programs serve local middle school students. First Graduate focuses on children who would be the first in their family to graduate from college, while Summerbridge provides tuition-free academic enrichment to motivated but underserved middle school students. The groups discussed zoo career opportunities with staff, interns and volunteers. The First Graduate students also talked with summer Zoo Camp intern Bruno Gazzolo, himself a member of the First Graduate program. Bruno began as a teen volunteer and now is a paid inter during his summer break from college. This experience offered a chance for the students to see how volunteering can lead to a paid position at the Zoo.

On July 20<sup>th</sup> Mountain Lake was part of the Sunday Streets festivities in San Francisco. The Zoo came out to support the Mountain Lake restoration project at the Presidio Trust's Festival at the Lake and brought western pond turtles to help with community outreach as we go into the final year of work before turtles are introduced.

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 – July 2014**

<b>DONATION TO:</b>	<b>ANIMAL SPECIES</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>TOTAL DUE</b>
Great Plains Zoo 805 S Kiwanis Ave. Sioux Falls, SD 57104	1.0 Giant anteater <i>Myrmecophaga tridactyla</i>	NIL	N/A

**DONATION FROM:**

UC Santa Barbara Briggs Lab Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology Santa Barbara, CA 93105	11.19 Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs <i>Rana muscosa</i>	NIL	N/A
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Committee Advisor Stephens questioned the donation of the frogs. Bocian answered these would be part of the conservation program being conducted at SFZ.

5. **Animal Updates.**

(Discussion)

David Bocian, VP Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS

<b>ANIMAL UPDATES – JUNE 2014</b>					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
<b>ACQUISITIONS</b>					
5	1.0	Capybara	Purchase	From Brevard Zoo	
12	1.1	Wolverine	Loan	Transfer from Columbus Zoo	
14	1.0	Guanaco	Purchase	From Tautphaus Zoo	
14	0.1	Guanaco	Loan	From San Diego Zoo	
17	0.0.5	Red-eyed tree frog	Donation	From Portland Aquarium	
19	0.1	Blue-throated piping guan	Donation	From Miller Park Zoo	
20	1.0	Blue-bellied roller	Purchase	From Omaha Zoo	
22	11.19	Mountain yellow-legged frog	Collected	From the wild	
<b>DISPOSITION</b>					
9	0.1	Marabou stork	Death	<b>13Y, 2M, 12D</b>	Broken leg/euthanized
19	0.1	Four-toed hedgehog	Disappeared		From enclosure at ARC
21	0.1	Black swan	Death	<b>~12Y, 1M, 20D</b>	Blood clotting disorder
21	0.1	Mandrill	Donation		Columbus Zoo(already there on loan)
26	1.0.2	Red-necked wallabies	Donation		Edmonton Valley Zoo (already there on loan)

Committee Advisor Spinelli questioned how long the Wolverine would be on loan. Bocian responded probably the rest of life. Committee Member Alvarez asked if the Black Swan

infection is transferable to other birds. Bocian stated that this is being researched with assistance from UCSF.

**6. Summer Programming**

Tim Wu, VP of Philanthropy, SFZS

(Information only)

Mr. Wu reported on upcoming summer events at the Zoo.

Highlighted special summer programs including Father's Day including appearances of Baloo & Mowgli from the Jungle Book. World Giraffe weekend and the Jeans for Giraffes donation drive. Red, White & Zoo for July 4<sup>th</sup> highlighting animals displaying those colors. Teddy Bear Festival this year including a demonstration of safety when camping in bear country. Gorilla Kabibe's 1st year birthday party. Wolverine exhibit opening and press preview. Marvel Wolverine Super Hero character appearance. Oakland Raider Rod Streater and Ronald McDonald House visit. March of the Penguins, Baby Loves Disco highlighting wellness of animals and humans, All Families Day, World Lion Weekend, Back to School Weekend featuring the Zoo holding a donation drive to gather backpacks for needy school children in the Zoo's neighborhood, and ending with Komodo Karnival on Labor Day Weekend. Mr. Wu also gave a reminder of the special visiting exhibit Washed Ashore which will close September 21.

Committee Member Secchia complimented the Red, White & Zoo weekend event.

Member of Public Hastings commented that National Geographic has an article on the endangerment of lions and thinks this should be brought to the attention of the public during World Lion weekend.

**7. Announcements**

(Information only)

None

**8. Chair's Announcements.**

(Information only)

Chair McDonnell stated that while he is not a Raider fan and therefore is OK with missing the Rod Streater visit he would appreciate notice if a Forty Niner, Giants or San Jose Shark player would be visiting the Zoo..

**9. Old Business.**

(Discussion)

None

**10. New Business/Future Agenda Items.**

(Information only)

Committee Advisor Stephens requested a presentation from Dr. Watters on enrichment program. Chair McDonnell would like an update on the safety matters previously reported upon from Director Peterson.

**11. Public Comments:**

Member of Public Hastings presented for consideration various ideas on improving the Zoo. These included a giant panda exhibit, returning Zoo Do for sale, more clean-up of the outside of the Zoo, closing of the sewage plant and movement of the National Guard facility to the Presidio.

**12. Adjournment.**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.