

**RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT**

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

July 25, 2013

San Francisco Zoological Society

5:00 p.m.

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

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Tom Harrison  
Recreation and Park Commissioner, Mark Buell, Acting Chair  
San Francisco Zoological Society (SFZS) Board Member, Wayne Reading  
San Francisco Zoological Society (SFZS) Board Member, Elena Asturias  
San Francisco Zoological Society (SFZS) Board Member, Gail Secchia  
Committee Advisor, Sally Stephens  
Committee Advisor, Joseph Spinelli

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

**ACTION: MSA**

Adoption of Minutes of the June 27, 2013 Committee Meeting

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

Tanya Peterson, Executive Director and President, SFZS  
Director Peterson reported attendance for the month of June was 104,298 visitors versus budget of 85,000. Total attendance for the entire fiscal year of 2012-2013 was 883,487, exceeding projections for the fiscal year.

The Zoo's new baby gorilla is thriving. Her mother, Nneka, is also doing well, but as it goes with many first-time gorilla mothers, Nneka needs assistance. As a result, human intervention has been required, and the Zoo's animal care staff is involving "grandmother", Bwang, who raised Nneka and acted as surrogate to Hasani. As the troop acclimates to their newest addition, the baby is not expected to be on exhibit for some time. Cameras are being set up so that visitors can see the baby via a monitor within a couple of weeks.

Peterson also reported that on Sunday, July 14, a non-paying visitor hopped into the African Savannah at the viewing platform within Entry Village where visitors can enjoy the exhibit without payment. He was stopped by Zoo staff in an area adjacent to the mandrills. He then was arrested by SFPD. The incident occurred without injury to animal or non-animal.

On Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, the annual "March of the Penguins" will be held for Members and Non-Members alike. Four female penguin chicks and one male will make their way to Penguin Island to join their penguin peers. The chicks have learned to swim and eat fish and are now used to human interaction through penguin socializing sessions at "fish school". One lucky Member will get to name the male penguin and have an up-close encounter on Penguin Island.

After 30 years of service at the Zoo, veterinary technician Gail Hedberg has retired. Gail hand-raised SFZ's 30-year old polar bear Piké as well as many other species of Zoo babies over the years. She selflessly dedicated her time to improving the way of life of animals at the Zoo.

Lastly, Peterson thanked the Zoo's Docent Council for its annual luncheon held in honor of National Zoo Keeper Appreciation Week. This year, they included horticulture, hospital and maintenance staffs as well. Also, this year, the Docents were able to raise enough funds to purchase two gorilla hammocks due to their sales of animal photo buttons.

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 2013**

DONATION FROM:	ANIMAL SPECIES	PRICE	TOTAL DUE
North Star Rescue PO Box 537 Diablo, CA 94528	0.2 guinea pigs <i>Cavia porcuellus</i>	NIL	N/A
Pete Marshall 345 A Laurel Avenue Hayward, CA 94541	0.0.2 California kingsnakes <i>Lampropeltis getula californiae</i>	NIL	N/A
Sacramento Zoo 3930 W Land Park Drive Sacramento, CA 95822	0.0.1 Burrowing owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	NIL	N/A

5. **Animal Updates.**

(Discussion)

David Bocian, VP Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS

ANIMAL UPDATES – JUNE 2013					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
<b>ACQUISITIONS</b>					
6	0.1	Red-fronted lemur	Donation	Tampa Busch Gardens	
12	0.0.1	Yosemite toad	Loan In	San Francisco State University	
19	1.0	Marbled teal	Donation	Reid Park Zoo	
22	0.0.10	Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs	Loan In	San Francisco State University	
<b>DISPOSITION</b>					
				<b>Age at Death</b>	
4	0.1	Cochin chicken	Death	<b>8Y, 4M, 30D</b>	Wasting syndrome, pathology report pending
24	0.0.1	American alligator	Loan Return		Audubon Zoo
27	1.0	Costal rosy boa	Death	<b>32Y, 0M, 30D</b>	Thyroid tumor, kidney tumor
28	0.0.1	Common carp	Death	<b>10Y</b>	Trauma and infection

Committee Advisor Stephens asked if the frogs were part of the Zoo's conservation programs and were to be re-released into the wild. Bocian replied in the affirmative. Member of Public Ennis asked about the cause of trauma in the death of the carp. Bocian responded that interaction with a raccoon was suspected.

6. **Status Report on Mother's Building** (Information only)  
**SF Arts Commission/Recreation & Parks Department**  
Status update on Mother's Building and murals.  
Denny Kern, Director of Operations of San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, provided an historical background of the building. This included reviewing efforts which have been made over the years to keep the integrity of both the exterior and interior of the building. In 1988, a \$2M grant was applied for but not approved. In 1989, an exterior trellis system was installed to protect the deterioration of the terra cotta surface. In the early 1990s, the wood floors and walls were refurbished and the electric system was upgraded. In 2008, the heat was turned on at intervals to protect the murals. In 2011, the roof and gutter were evaluated, and drainpipes were installed. The Recreation and Parks Department agrees that this building is a treasure and should be restored and will take interim action to preserve the building and murals. Work that has been done since 2002 has been to stop further deterioration of the building. Kate Patterson of the Arts Commission gave an historic background of the murals. She reported on the condition and possible restoration of the murals. Discussion followed on various aspects for the restoration and eventual use of the building. Member of Public Rothman stated that Ashley Summers from Supervisor Tang's office was present, and it seems people are interested but there is not accessibility to the building to see its interior. Director Peterson stated that SFZS has offered \$10,000 towards this project to assist with the study.
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:**
12. **Adjournment.**  
Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.