

**RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT**

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

August 22, 2013

San Francisco Zoo

5:00 p.m.

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

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Eric McDonnell  
Recreation and Park Commissioner, Mark Buell, Acting Chair  
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 July 25, 2013 Committee Meeting

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

Tanya Peterson, Executive Director and President, SFZS  
Director Peterson noted that U.S. Congresswoman Jackie Speier visited the Zoo today, speaking with SFZS employees and touring the construction site of the newly remodeled playground. Director Peterson then reported attendance for the month of July was 109,314 visitors versus budget of 107,000. Year-to-date attendance is 176,071 versus budget of 169,100.

In terms of animal updates, Peterson reported on the arrival of the new Zoo's Komoda dragon, "Big Daddy Bahasa", which was underwritten, in part, by the generous support of Barry and Marie Lipman. Peterson noted schoolchildren from True Sunshine Preschool in Chinatown have been invited to attend the exhibit's opening as well as Guardian donors. Peterson then thanked Dr. Sinead Devine, a local equine veterinarian and dentist, who recently had taken care of the dental needs of the Zoo's elderly horses. The visit included a thorough dental exam, including x-rays, cleaning, floating (smoothing sharp points) and an extraction. This important component of animal wellness will continue with routine and specialized dental care for Zoo animals.

In terms of upcoming events, Peterson reported that thanks to KQED, the Zoo is hosting a Meet & Greet with Curious George in late August. The famous primate, along with the Man in the Yellow Hat, will be onsite near Greenie's Conservation Corner. Peterson also noted that the Zoo will be hosting its second annual *Noc'tails* silent dance party on September 26<sup>th</sup>. The event features Silent Storm Sound System, with three DJs spinning their music into headphones.

Lastly, Peterson reported on the Zoo's efforts to remain involved in the local community, and the Zoo's Education department recently participated in two backpack giveaway events. First, Zoo staff and animals attended the B-Magic backpack giveaway, held in San Francisco's Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood. The Zoo also contributed to Mayor Ed Lee's backpack giveaway, supplying Seafood Watch cards, wildlife coloring books, and conservation bookmarks.

**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 – August 2013**

DONATION FROM:	ANIMAL SPECIES	PRICE	TOTAL DUE
Dominick Dorsa II 7630 South Acacia Lane Vacaville, CA 95688	1.0 Temminicks tragopan <i>Tragopan temminickii</i>	NIL	N/A
Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter 1638 East Beach Drive Oak Island, NC 28465	2.1 Brown pelicans <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	NIL	N/A
Houston Zoo 1513 N. MacGregor Drive Houston, TX 77030-1603	1.0 Double-wattled cassowary <i>Casuarius casuarius</i>	NIL	N/A
Albuquerque BioPark 903 10 <sup>th</sup> Street SW Albuquerque, NM 87102	1.0 Slender-tailed meerkat <i>Suricata suricatta</i>	NIL	N/A

**5. Animal Updates.**

(Discussion)

David Bocian, VP Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS

ANIMAL UPDATES – JULY 2013					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
<b>ACQUISITIONS</b>					
8	0.2	Guinea pig	Donation	Private Party	
17	0.1	Western lowland gorilla	Birth		
20	0.0.2	North American ruddy duck	Hatch		
21	0.0.1	North American ruddy duck	Hatch		
24	0.0.1	North American ruddy duck	Hatch		
29	0.0.1	Komodo dragon		Memphis Zoo	
31	0.0.1	North American ruddy duck	Hatch		
<b>DISPOSITION</b>					
				<b>Age at Death</b>	
2	M	Lion-tailed macaque	Donation		Detroit Zoo
22	M	Marbled teal	Death	<b>12Y,0M, 15D</b>	Intestinal perforation
22	M	Black parrot	Death	<b>~5Y,6M, 21D</b>	Aspergillosis
23	F	Domestic polecat (ferret)	Death	<b>~6Y,6M, 22D</b>	Heart failure, cancer
26	F	American bison	Death	<b>~30Y,3M,12D</b>	Systemic shock, ovarian tumor

Committee Member Buell asked if animals are given physical exams and medical records before being sent to SFZ. Bocian responded that this occurs sometimes depending often upon the species. There are extensive conversations between the veterinary and the curatorial departments from both zoos. That being said, in some instances, when received from a private donation there may not be medical records. The teal arrived from a zoo and the parrot from a private party. Every animal is put into 30 day quarantine so as to hopefully determine any existing issues but it is not absolute. Committee Advisor Spinelli commented that some issues

such as the intestinal perforation often cannot be diagnosed and once perforated the animal will soon die.

6. **Capital Construction Update** (Information only)  
**Robert Icard, VP of Operations, SFZ**  
Status update on Playground and Aviary projects  
VP of Operations Robert Icard provided a status report on current capital construction projects. He first discussed the remodel of the Elinor Friend Playground. Icard noted that the playground's design attempted to ease the challenges of disabled children by giving them accessibility. Icard provided pictures of the construction site with construction scheduled to finish by mid-November. The status of the Koret-Taube South American Tropical Aviary remodel then was discussed. VP of Animal Care & Enrichment, David Bocian, and California architect Frank Fung also added to the presentation. Bocian stated the desire was to create an area where the visitors are surrounded by animals, and the design hopes provide birds to have free flight. Fung reported he had been retained by SFZ to assist in implementing the project, with the lead designer from New York and local structural and electrical engineering. Frank noted that after an extensive process of selection of contractors, the local firm of the Nibbi Brothers was chosen.  
  
Member of Public, Rothman stated that as the Mother's Building is next to the playground this might be the time to have a conversation on how it may fit into the overall plan of the Zoo.
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:**  
Member of Public Rothman stated that things are beginning to move along with the Mother's Building issue but private funds totaling \$13,000 need to be raised to proceed with the study.
12. **Adjournment.**  
Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.