

RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

August 28, 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 Maggie Wei
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 July 24, 2014 Committee Meeting.

3. San Francisco Zoo Administrative Report (Discussion)

Wayne Reading, CFO, SFZS.

Mr. Reading reported attendance for twenty-six days of August is 91,933 versus budget of 77,100 and over budget by 14,833 visitors. Actual year-to-date attendance through August 26 is 200,301 and is over budget by 10%.

On the animal front the Zoo is proud to announce the birth of twin male reticulated giraffe calves born Tuesday, August 26th. One calf weighed 83 pounds and is 5' 3" tall and his brother is 99 pounds and 5' 6" tall. The birth of twins is rare and there have only been nine other sets of living twins reported in zoos worldwide. The calves are off exhibit for the time being. One calf is well and nursing. The second calf is not nursing and did not receive enough antibodies. He is under observation and care in the hospital.

Flamingo breeding season has started with eggs appearing in some nests. Both male and female adults incubate the eggs. Incubation period is between 28 and 32 days. Both parents feed the chicks as well.

As part of the Zoo's preventative health program animals receive complete health evaluations. The Zoo's eleven year old grizzly bears Kachina and Kiona recently had their evaluation. The bears were transported to the veterinary hospital for a full evaluation. The evaluations found both bears in excellent health and body condition and neither needed any additional procedures or treatments.

Upcoming events: Labor Day Weekend is coming this weekend with Komodo Karnival being held at the Zoo. There will be a carnival atmosphere celebrating SFZ's Komodo Dragon, Big Daddy Bahasa, with entertainment for the whole family with fun games for all. In addition there will be keeper talks and animal encounters throughout the Zoo. Sunday, September 2nd is Grandparent Day at the Zoo. All Grandparents who are accompanied by their grandchildren will receive free admission to the Zoo.

On the conservation side, the Wild Places & Wild Things conservation lecture series there are two programs coming up. The first will host Wayne O'Brian, Warden, San Francisco Fish and Game and AnnMarie Holmes, Inspector for California Fish & Game Association. This will be

held September 21 in the Education Center and the topic is Fighting the Illicit Animal Trade. The second lecture will be on September 24 hosting Dr. Laurie Marker, founder of the Cheetah Fund. Dr. Marker will report on A Future For Cheetahs.

The temporary exhibit Washed Ashore has been at the Zoo for two months and will close on September 24.

Committee Advisor Stephens questioned the normal size of a newborn giraffe. David Bocian responded that normally the weight is approximately 120 pounds and the height is 6' tall.

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			
<u>ANIMAL TRANSACTION RATIFICATION – August 2014</u>			
DONATION FROM:	ANIMAL SPECIES	PRICE	TOTAL DUE
Jeff Hunter 12 Carson Street San Francisco, CA 94114	0.0.1 Curl crested aracari <i><u>Pteroglossus beauharnaesii</u></i>	NIL	N/A
Dallas Zoo 650 South R.L.Thornton Fwy. Dallas, TX 75203	0.1 Western grey plantain eater <i><u>Crinifer piscator</u></i>	NIL	N/A
Dallas Zoo 650 South R.L. Thornton Fwy. Dallas, TX 75203	1.0 Hadada ibis <i><u>Bostrychia hagedash</u></i>	NIL	N/A
Dallas Zoo 650 South R.L. Thornton Fwy. Dallas, TX 75203	0.0.2 South American racer <i><u>Philodryas baroni</u></i>	NIL	N/A
Como Zoo and Conservatory 1225 Estabrook Drive Saint Paul, MN 55103	0.0.6 Leaf frog <i><u>Hylomantis lemur</u></i>	NIL	N/A
Zoo Atlanta 800 Cherokee Avenue Atlanta, GA 30315	1.0 Peruvian red-tailed boa <i><u>Boa constrictor</u></i>	NIL	N/A
Abilene Zoological Gardens 2070 Zoo Lane Abilene, TX 79602	0.0.5 Plumed basilisk <i><u>Basiliscus plumifrons</u></i>	NIL	N/A
Micke Grove Zoo 11793 North Micke Grove Road Lodi, CA 95240	0.1 Southern pudu <i><u>Pudu puda</u></i>	NIL	N/A

Sedgwick County Zoo
555 Zoo Blvd.
Wichita, KS 67212

0.1 Southern pudu
Pudu puda

NIL N/A

5. Animal Updates.

(Discussion)

David Bocian, VP Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS

ANIMAL UPDATES – JULY 2014					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
ACQUISITIONS					
8	1.0	North American porcupine	Purchase	Private Breeder	
24	0.0.1	Curl-crested aracari	Donation	Private Breeder	
DISPOSITION					
				Age at Death	
16	0.1	Teal	Death	13Y, 2M, 1D	Liver tumor
29	1.0	Common squirrel monkey	Death	20Y, 9M, 2D	Heart, liver & kidney disease
30	0.1	Aye-aye	Loan Transfer		Bristol Zoo Gardens

6. Wellness Program

Jason Watters, VP of Wellness & Animal Behavior, SFZS (Information only)

Dr. Watters presented an overview on the Zoo's Wellness Program. Wellness at the Zoo is an integrative research initiative. The Program investigates how to measure and ensure positive animal welfare, studies how the connection between visitors and animals drives social responsible actions and shares the knowledge acquired. The Program consists of a Wellness Team, Initial Studies, Wellness Center onsite, Outreach/Interpretation and Collaborations. The onsite Wellness Center (WCC) has a classroom, behavior laboratory, prototyping laboratory, library and offices. Wellness Evaluations begin with animal staff developing a priority list of animals. Data is then collected, recommendations are discussed and prioritized based on achievability and needs for implementation is communicated to other departments for minor exhibit upgrades. Interactive and dynamic enrichment devices are developed and data is collected on behavioral effects of the new device. Larger projects require wider collaboration. Two examples were given: a feeder for the anteater and alpaca rotation amongst various available on/off exhibit areas. The results were increased activity and visibility of the anteater and increased alpaca activity, decreased avoidance behaviors and improved visitor interactions.

Committee Advisor Spinelli asked how the feeder for the anteater is utilized. Dr. Watters stated that food is released through the feeder but not on a set schedule or position thus forcing the anteater to find the food. Commissioner Wei stated that on a recent visit to the Zoo with her daughters they viewed one of the Snow leopard in its enclosure and it did not seem happy. In discussion Dr. Watters stated that this animal are solitary and only get together infrequently and that since Commissioner Wei's visit adjustments have been made to one of the enclosures.

7. Announcements

(Information only)

None

8. Chair's Announcements.

(Information only)

Chair McDonnell welcomed Commissioner Wei to the Committee. He also reported on receiving and having an exchange with the Teamsters regarding trying to find the best and most effective and more productive way to bring information forward to the Committee. Chair

McDonnell will be meeting with management to arrive at a timely way to get issues agendaized as well as updates periodically given. Per agreement to help get the current contract ratified there will be a small joint committee formed to continue to vet safety issues and concerns. This committee will have Commissioner McDonnell representing the Joint Zoo Committee, a representative from Management, a representative from the Staff Team and a representative from the Teamsters.

9. **Old Business.** (Discussion)
None
10. **New Business/Future Agenda Items.** (Information only)
Clerk stated that due to an adjustment in today's agenda the Veterinary Report will be given at a future meeting.
11. **Public Comments:**
12. **Adjournment.**
Meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

DRAFT