

RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

September 26, 2013

San Francisco Zoo

5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Tom Harrison

Recreation and Park Commission President, Mark Buell

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

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

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

Committee Advisor, Sally Stephens

2. Joint Zoo Committee Meeting Minutes (Action Item)

ACTION: MSA

Adoption of Minutes of the August 25, 2013 Committee Meeting

3. San Francisco Zoo Administrative Report (Discussion)

Tanya Peterson, Executive Director and President, SFZS

Director Peterson congratulated President Buell for his fundraising efforts for the America's Cup races. Director Peterson then reported attendance for the month of August was 96,595 visitors versus budget of 91,000. Year-to-date attendance is 253,437 versus budget of 250,700.

In terms of animal updates, Peterson reported that the Zoo's baby gorilla remained healthy but still off exhibit for purposes of animal husbandry. Nevertheless, Zoo staff believed it was time for the public to vote on a name for the baby. The top contenders are Swahili words that roughly translate to "beautiful", "active" or "happy". The names are posted both online and in collection boxes at the Zoo, and it is \$1 per vote. All the proceeds will go toward the Zoo's gorilla conservation and care programs.

In terms of events, Peterson reported that on September 22nd, SF Zoo celebrated World Rhino Day. SFZS staff provided special enrichment and informative talks at the rhino exhibits for visitors to enjoy. A portion of the proceeds from the weekend's zip line were donated to Indian Rhino Vision. This evening, the Zoo will be the second annual *Noc'tails* silent dance party, and this weekend, the Zoo opens its newest temporary exhibit *Big Bugs: Outside the Box!*

Regarding membership, Peterson reported that at this year's Annual Meeting of the San Francisco Zoological Society, outgoing Chair David Stanton presided over his last meeting and handed the gavel over to incoming Chair Robert Pedrero. Regarding professional enrichment, Peterson reported that nine SFZS employees and professor-in-residence Dr. Terry Maple attended this year's annual Association of Zoos and Aquariums Annual Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. Many of the sessions were applicable to education and volunteer programs. Also, during the week of October 13th, Director Peterson will accompany the Mayor of San Francisco to Asia and visit our Sister City of Shanghai. Each City's Zoo intends to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to promote animal wellness and respectful visitor behavior.

Lastly, in keeping with the Zoo's mission of conservation, Peterson reported that five Electric Vehicle Charging Stations will be installed in the Zoo's main parking lot. Installation is slated to begin soon, and the service will initially be free for guests driving electric cars.

Member of Public Ennis asked if on the trip to Asia would there be a negotiation to acquire a panda. Peterson stated that the purpose of the visit was to promote goodwill between the two zoos and introduce the SF Zoo's wellness initiative.

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 – September 2013**

DONATION FROM:	ANIMAL SPECIES	PRICE	TOTAL DUE
Squirrel Mender Wildlife Rehab 330 Charro Avenue Thousand Oaks, CA 91320	0.1 Virginia opossum <i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	NIL	N/A

5. **Animal Updates.** (Discussion)
David Bocian, VP Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS

ANIMAL UPDATES – AUGUST 2013					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
ACQUISITIONS					
7	0.0.2	California kingsnake	Donation	Private Party	
14	2.0	Satyr tragopan	Donation	Central Park Zoo	
14	1.1	Impeyan pheasant	Donation	Central Park Zoo	
21	0.1	Patas monkey	Birth	Died the next day	
DISPOSITION					
				Age at Death	
7	0.0.1	North American Ruddy Duck	Death	0Y, 0M, 7D	Pathology report pending
7	1.0	Red-necked wallaby	Loan		EdmontonValley Zoo
22	1.0	Black howler monkey	Loan		Santa Ana Zoo
22	0.1	Patas monkey	Death	0Y, 0M, 1D	Maternal neglect, infection
29	0.0.1	Yosemite toad	Death	~2Y, 7M, 28D	Pathology report pending

Member of Pubic Ennis questioned the maternal neglect in the death of the Patas monkey. Bocian stated the mother was not holding it correctly and staff waited to see if the mother would adjust her care and when this did not happen staff removed the baby and found it was dead.

6. **Bird Collection Update** (Information only)
Dominick Dorsa, Curator of Birds, SFZ

Curator Dorsa reported on new species which have been added to San Francisco Zoo's bird collection. Next to the Flamingo exhibit brilliantly colored Satyr and Temmincks Tragopans as well as a pair of Himalayan Monals, all ground dwelling birds, can be seen. In the same area can be found the Wrinkled Hornbills. They are a young pair, around 2 years old and will reach

breeding age at about 5 years. Also being acquired are new species for the South American Tropical Building after it is renovated, such as Amazon Parrots, Aracari, Ruddy Ducks and Ibis. Committee member Secchia questioned if the Ruddy ducks are South American. Dorsa explained that they are called North American Ruddy ducks but their territory extends from South America into North American and also Africa.

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 he had reached out to Jackie Spier's office for support of the renovation. He also stated that he had found out about a preservation fund which had been established in the 1970's during the renovation of the Emporium building. He spoke to them and found that the Mother's Building would be a good candidate for funding.
12. **Adjournment.**
Meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.