Joint Zoo Committee Meeting Minutes  
January 11, 2010  
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Recreation and Park Department  
Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting  
January 11, 2010  
City Hall, Room 416  
1:00 p.m.

Roll Call:  
Recreation and Park Commissioner, Tom Harrison  
Recreation and Park Commissioner, David Lee  
Zoological Society Board, Bill Beech, Chair  
Zoological Society Board, Elena Asturias

Dr. Joseph Spinelli, Veterinarian Advisor  
Sally Stephens, Animal Welfare Commission representative

1. **Joint Zoo Committee Meeting Minutes (Action Item)**  
   Adoption of Minutes of the November 9, 2009 Committee Meeting  
   Adoption of Minutes of the December 14, 2009 Committee Meeting  
   **ACTION: MSA**

2. **San Francisco Zoo Director's Report (Discussion)**  
   **Tanya M. Peterson, Executive Director, SFZS**  
   Director Peterson stated that SFZS began the year with a letter from JP Morgan increasing their annual donation to $45,000 to help underwrite the Nature Trail youth conservation program. Also, SFZ is having a Happy Zoo Year campaign in January, which allows a child free admission when accompanied by a paying adult. The child is asked to bring in a coloring of their favorite zoo animal or they may download a picture of a penguin from the SFZ website to color. Director Peterson thanked the Bernard Osher Foundation for supporting this campaign. During the months of January, February & March, San Francisco Unified School District teachers are offered one year’s free membership to the Zoo. In December, a baby duiker was born at the zoo as part of AZA’s Population Management program. SFZ participated in the 27th year of bird counting at the zoo in December. Visitor attendance for December was 35,070 versus a budget of 39,000 generating an unfavorable variance of 3930 visitors. Attendance revenue for the month was $208,800 versus projection of $246,068 generating a variance of $37,268. Seven days of rain and overcast weather had a significant impact on attendance. The zoo renewed its Workers Compensation insurance at the same rates as last year. Director Peterson thanked the efforts of Wayne Reading, SFZ CFO, for this outcome. Last Saturday, 203 volunteers came out to the zoo to participate in the Renew the Zoo program working in the primate and savanna areas as well as some of the walkways. The holiday gift membership campaign yielded over 185 new members versus 30 gift memberships the previous year. A membership reward program will be rolled out in February in which food and retail sales will yield retail membership coupons for members. The education department has set the dates for its two Spring Zoo Camp program sessions: March 29 – April 2 and April 5 – April 9 for children preschool through 5th grade. After-care will be offered for a fee. There will also be a blog for parents so that they can check in on their children throughout the day. The zoo will host its Lunar New Year event celebrating the Year of the Tiger on Sunday, February 21. Details can be found on the zoos website at [www.sfzoo.org](http://www.sfzoo.org).  
   Commissioner Lee asked if not having the reindeer over the holiday season impacted attendance this year and suggested that preparing a cost analysis might show this information.
He also wanted to say that he is pleased the zoo is going to have the Lunar New Year celebration. He has attended this event since its inception and realizes it is very popular. Ms. Stephens asked if the legislation proposed by Supervisor Sean Elsbrend has been adopted. Mr. Jenkins stated that the proposal was submitted in December and must go through the normal process. Also, SFZ representatives have been in contact with state legislators to suggest a change of the Criminal Trespass Law for the State of California.

Member of the public, Deniz Bolbol asked if a report would be given on the Hippo/Rhino enclosure as requested at the last meeting. Director Peterson responded that this is to be a formal agenda item and will be given at a future meeting possibly in February or March.

3. Animal Transactions. (Action Item)
Bob Jenkins, VP – Institutional Advancement, SFZS

ACTION: MSA

SALE TO: Boise Zoo
355 Julia Davis Dr.
Boise, ID 83702
Price – 208-384-4260
Fax – 208-384-4194

SALE TO: Boise Zoo
355 Julia Davis Dr.
Boise, ID 83702
USDA #82-C-0006
Price – 208-384-4260
Fax – 208-384-4194

Bob Jenkins, VP – Institutional Advancement, SFZS

SALE TO: Boise Zoo
355 Julia Davis Dr.
Boise, ID 83702
USDA #82-C-0006
Price – 208-384-4260
Fax – 208-384-4194

4. Animal Updates. (Information only)
Bob Jenkins, VP – Institutional Advancement, SFZS

November 2009 Acquisition/Disposition Data:

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<th>ANIMALS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>Lion</td>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>Tautphus Park Zoo, Boise, ID</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Red ruffed lemur</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<td>North American ruddy duck</td>
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<td>23</td>
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<td>Magellanic penguin</td>
<td>Loan</td>
<td>Monterey Bay Aquarium</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- age at death may be estimated</td>
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December 2009 Acquisition/Disposition Data:

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<td>11</td>
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<td>Yellow-backed duiker</td>
<td>Birth, Loan In</td>
<td>Boston, Franklin Park</td>
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DISPOSITION Age at Death
17. Red kangaroo

- age at death may be estimated

Ms. Stephens asked for the particulars of the introduction process of the lions. Mr. Jenkins responded that it is an extensive process when involving any of the big cats. Member of public, Deniz Bolbol, commented on the process of “shuffling” animals from one facility to another seems to reduce the animals to commodities rather than living beings. Mr. Jenkins responded that the SSP process was extensively discussed at a previous meeting and assured that the staff at the zoo is very sensitive to the well being of the animals and while referring to them as commodities may seem insensitive it is in no way so. Director Peterson also responded with the information that both the staff veterinarian and Carl Friedman have been asked to participate in the decision process and assured that all staff at the zoo are sensitive to this process. Member of public, Mark Ennis, asked for Mr. Jenkins to clarify on the process of choosing the lioness that was chosen for breeding and with which lion is she to be bred. Mr. Jenkins reviewed the process and stated that she will be bred with the son of the male father that is at the zoo. The father has a hip problem which does not recommend breeding and that this had been discussed at a previous Joint Zoo meeting.

5. Report on Bear Grotto Exhibits

Dr. Joseph Spinelli & Ms. Sally Stephens – Advisors to Joint Zoo Committee

Dr. Spinelli submitted and reviewed the written report (Attachment). Ms. Stephens commented on her observations. Thank you to SFZ staff for time spent. Agrees that enrichment is the key and the age of the bears must be taken into consideration when thinking of moving the animals. It is necessary that the grottos are good as they can be and improvements are always desirable. “Outside the Box” thinking is good. Costs of improvement must be considered in changes. Further brainstorming for fundraising efforts would be good. Member of public, Deniz Bolbol, questioned the length of time spent on observations and recommendations on relocations and environmental changes. Member of public, Mark Ennis, commented on his observations of polar bear Ulu’s behavior.

6. Announcements (Information only)

7. Chair’s Announcements (Information only)

8. New Business/Future Agenda Items (Information only)

9. Public Comments: Members of the public may address the committee on matters that are within the committee’s jurisdiction and are not on today’s agenda.

10. Adjournment

There were no announcements.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:05pm.