

**RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT**

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

November 17, 2010

City Hall, Room 408

2:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Recreation and Park Commissioner, David Lee, Chair

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Gloria Bonilla

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Mark Buell

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

San Francisco Zoological Society (SFZS) Board Member, Bill Beech

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

Committee Advisor, Dr. Joseph Spinelli

Committee Advisor, Sally Stephens

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

**ACTION: MSA**

Adoption of Minutes of the September 9, 2010 Onsite Zoo Tour

Adoption of Minutes of the October 29, 2010 Committee Meeting

Both sets of minutes were approved as presented.

**2. San Francisco Zoo Director's Report (Discussion)**

**Tanya Peterson, Executive Director & President, SFZS**

Director Peterson introduced and honored long-term SFZS Docents, Ms. Linda Micke and Ms. Beth Anderson. Both were original Zoomobile teachers and have been at the Zoo for 38 years. Both currently remain active at the Zoo. Commissioner Bonilla thanked them for their dedication and excellent job in educating visitors of all ages who come to the Zoo. Dr. Spinelli also offered his compliments and congratulations to the Docents. Director Peterson then discussed the concept of the exhibit that will house the recently acquired Squirrel monkeys. Ms. Peterson then reported that attendance for the first 15 days of November is 24,662 versus projection of 23,400, which gives a favorable overage of 1,262 visitors to date. Commissioner Bonilla asked if the unexpected good weather days recently have contributed to being over projection in attendance, and Peterson confirmed weather impacts Zoo's attendance both favorably and unfavorably. Commissioner Lee expects during the holiday season an increase in attendance with the arrival of the reindeer.

**3. Animal Transactions. (Action Item)**

**ACTION: MSA**

**Bob Jenkins, VP – Institutional Advancement, SFZS**

**ANIMAL TRANSACTION RATIFICATION - October 2010**

<b>DONATION TO:</b>			<b>PRICE</b>	<b>TOTAL DUE</b>
Cleveland Zoo 3900 Wildlife Way Cleveland, OH 44109 USDA #31-C-0001 216-661-6500 Alan Sironen	1.0	Fishing cat <i>Prionailurus viverrinus</i>	NIL	N/A

**DONATION FROM:**

Jackson Zoological Park 1.0 Emperor Tamarin NIL N/A  
 2918 /West Capitol Street Saguinus imperator subgriseus  
 Jackson, MS 39209  
 USDA #65-C-0101  
 601-352-2580  
 Willie Bennett

Advisor Stephens questioned why the loaning of one Fishing cat and the acquisition of a new cat rather than continued breeding of the cat at the Zoo. Mr. Jenkins responded this was part of the genetic profiling of the Species Survival Program..

4. **Animal Updates.** (Discussion)  
 Bob Jenkins, VP – Institutional Advancement, SFZS

ANIMAL UPDATES – SEPTEMBER 2010					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
		<b>ACQUISITIONS</b>		<b>Age at Death</b>	
1	0.0.3	Golfodulcean poison dart frog	Birth		SFZoo
21	1.0	Fishing cat	Loan in		Columbus Zoo
28	1.0	Emperor tamarin	Donation		Jackson Zoo
		<b>DISPOSITION</b>			
15	1.0	Fishing Cat	Donation		Cleveland Zoo
27	0.0.1	Golfodulcean poison dart frog	Death	Unknown	SFZoo

5. **Quarterly Financial Report** (Information only)  
 Wayne Reading, CFO, SFZS  
 Mr. Reading reviewed the Financial Statements for year ended June 30, 2010 with the independent auditor’s report. This includes the second-half of 2009. He then presented the year- to-date financial review through September 30, 2010. While total revenues are down, expenses have been kept under projections. Attendance is the major impact on the revenue side, and both weather and the current economic situation are contributors to these figures. Commissioner Lee asked if SFZ hit a “rough spot,” would there be financing available to cover expenses if needed? Mr. Reading responded there is unused credit available with the bank that could be used if necessary. He stated he does not anticipate this need. Commissioner Bonilla questioned when projections are made, are figures from previous years used for reference or is there a formula used? Mr. Reading stated that various factors are considered including previous attendance and weather conditions. He does have a three-year model that utilizes historical attendance figures, planned activities and other drivers from previous years. After reviewing these components, figures are adjusted to what is conceived as normal circumstances. Bonilla also complimented the fact that expenses have been kept to a minimum in a consistent manner. SFZS Board Member Alvarez asked if the Buildings and Grounds number includes anything related to animal areas. Mr. Reading responded that the figure represents any improvements made to areas of the Zoo, both animal and otherwise. Advisor Stephens noted that the animal division budget is down by \$85,000 and wondered what this represents. Mr. Reading responded that overtime is down significantly through a concerted

effort by the keeper staff. Ms. Stephens also questioned that the statement given by critics of SF Zoo is that it cannot pay its bills and is this in fact true? Mr. Reading stated that he is not sure where the comment comes from; however, when he first started at the Zoo, there was a problem with some vendors but this does not currently exist. Bills are paid somewhere within 30 days, and SFZS has an excellent credit rating. The long-term debt with the City and SFPUC that developed as a result of the Christmas 2007 incident is being paid as agreed.

6. **Announcements** (Information only)
7. **Chair's Announcements.** (Information only)  
Chairman Lee announced that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday, December 15, 2010 at the San Francisco Zoo at 5:00 p.m.
8. **Old Business.** (Discussion)  
There was no old business.
9. **New Business/Future Agenda Items.** (Information only)  
There was no new business.
10. **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.  
Member of the Public, Philip Geary, commented that he was pleased to hear the report that the Zoo is meeting its financial commitments.
11. **Adjournment.**  
Meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.