

**Recreation and Park Department**  
Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting  
February 25, 2010  
City Hall, Room 416  
1:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Tom Harrison, Acting Chair

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Gloria Bonilla

Zoological Society Board, Deborah Robbins

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 January 11, 2010 Committee Meeting

**ACTION: MSA**

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

**Tanya M. Peterson, Executive Director, SFZS**

Director Peterson reported that attendance for the three-day President's Day weekend was 16,000 visitors versus last year's attendance of 4,000 visitors. In addition to the high attendance, 500 memberships were sold over the weekend. She also reported that on Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, the Zoo celebrated the Lunar New Year, and Peterson thanked Commissioner Lee for assisting in the opening ceremony of this event. Peterson noted that visitor attendance for the first 23 days of February is 36,593 versus budget of 39,700, generating an unfavorable variance of 3,107 visitors. Year-to-date attendance is tracking below budget, and steps are being taken to offset the shortfall with expense controls. Director Peterson recommended the Society's CFO present a mid-year budget review and financial report at a future Committee meeting. Peterson then reported that over the past few months, Zoo personnel have performed a variety of tasks to improve the habitats of the wild cats as well as enhance visitor experience. It was previously reported that the snow leopards were moved from a breeding space to a larger area in the Lion House, and both animals are doing well in their new habitat. She also reported that a new and improved fishing cat habitat was opened at the Lion House. Director Peterson also reported that she had relayed the Committee Advisors' concerns over the polar bear exhibit to members of the SFZS Board of Directors. In response to Advisor Ms. Stephens' comments at last month's meeting on the importance of animal enrichment, Director Peterson discussed the creation of a dedicated position for animal enrichment.

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

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

**ACTION: MSA**

**SAN FRANCISCO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS**  
**ANIMAL TRANSACTION RATIFICATION - February 2010**

**DONATION FROM:**

Rhonda Nilsson

0.02 Gopher snake

**PRICE TOTAL DUE**

**NIL NIL**

Rohnert Park, CA 94928  
USDA – N/A

Pituophis melanoleucus

Brent Welling  
Incline Village, NV 89450  
USDA – N/A

0.0.3 Bearded dragon  
Pogona viticeps

NIL NIL

**DONATION TO:**

Micke Grove Zoo  
1179 N. Micke Grove Rd  
Lodi, CA 95240  
USDA # 93-C-0006  
Phone - 209-331-2011

2.0 Waldrapp ibis  
Geronticus eremita

NIL NIL

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

DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION	COMMENTS
<b>ACQUISITIONS</b>				
16	0.0.2	Gopher snake	Donation	Private Party
19	1.0	South African shelduck	Donation	Dreher Park
<b>DISPOSITION</b>				
				<b>Age at Death</b>
5	0.1	Domestic polecat (ferret)	Death	9y 1m +/- Euthanized - cancer
8	0.1	Boa constrictor	Death	10y 0m +/- Euthanized -spinal cord degeneration
14	2.0	Waldrapp ibis	Donation	Lodi - SSP rec
19	0.1	Hedgehog	Death	2y 0m +/- Pending
20	0.1	Red kangaroo	Death	3y 0m +/- Pending
24	0.0.1	Bearded dragon	Death	9y 0m +/- Peritonitis & heart disease
27	5.3	Magellanic penguin	Sale	Jacksonville

Advisor Stephens asked (1) if the bearded dragon donated was a specific requested replacement for the one that died, (it was not); and, (2) when transfers are made under the SSP, how much advance notice does the zoo receive and suggested that if possible as much advance notice to the Committee would be desirable. SFZS Board Member Deborah Robbins asked for details on the death of the boa listed as spinal cord degeneration as to whether it involved diet and was it a spinal column issue. Jenkins responded that he does not have the exact detail and this would be an item that SFZ Veterinarian can address at the biannual report in May or at the next meeting of the Committee.

**5. Status Report on the Hippo Exhibit** (Information Only)

Mike Sulak, General Curator, SFZS

Mr. Sulak reviewed the scope of the Hippo/Rhino Exhibit Project. A power point presentation was given which showed various views of the exhibit. A summary of options being considered were presented.

Member of public, Deniz Bolbol, presented her opinion on this exhibit design, remodel and options considered. Member of public expressed his opinions on the animal’s welfare and relocation. Member of public commented on filtration system used in exhibits.

Advisor Stephens questioned conditions required for Baird tapir care if moved into new area and if addition of a filtration system is under consideration. Dr. Spinelli questioned the point mentioned that the exhibit area is not feasible for two hippos and the amount of space available to the rhinos. Mr. Sulak responded to all questions.

Commissioner Bonilla questioned the quality of life given to only one hippo rather than two hippos and asked if a preliminary study on cost estimates been done. Mr. Sulak reiterated that no definite decision has been made and studies are being conducted for consideration.

Commissioner Harrison questioned Director Peterson on the status of SFZ Master Plan.

**6. Announcements** (Information only)

**7. Chair's Announcements** (Information only)

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

A request was made for the current status of the Master Plan. This item will be agendized at a future meeting.

**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.

Jenkins thanked Susan Schafer for working on the schedule of meetings for 2010. Copies were distributed to committee members with additional copies available to public. The schedule is subject to change due to the schedule demands of the Recreation and Parks Commission.

Notification of changes to the meeting schedule will be given in timely manner.

Member of public commented on fencing which has been erected around areas of the zoo and if the animals kept in these areas had been relocated. Mr. Jenkins responded on the reason for the fence erections are due to ADA accessible issues. The animals are still in their areas and doing well.

**10. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:51pm.