

## RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

### Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

March 22, 2012

San Francisco Zoo

5:00 p.m.

#### Roll Call:

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Paige Arata, Chair

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Larry Martin

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

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

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

Committee Advisor, Sally Stephens

Committee Advisor, Joseph Spinelli

- 1. Joint Zoo Committee Meeting Minutes (Action Item)** **ACTION: MSA**  
Adoption of Minutes of the February 23, 2012 Committee Meeting

- 2. San Francisco Zoo Administrative Report (Discussion)**

Tanya Peterson, Executive Director & President, SFZS

Director Peterson reported that February attendance ended with 60,118 visitors versus projections of 39,000 visitors, which equaled 54.0% over budget. The change in weather for March, however, has impacted attendance. Through March 18<sup>th</sup>, 29,156 people visited the Zoo, which is 444 under projections. Year-to-date attendance is 546,389 visitors versus budget of 483,000, which is over prior year attendance by approximately 12.0%. Director Peterson then presented on Zoo facility and exhibit changes. First, the Zoo's male anteater, Angelo, was moved to a new exhibit located across from the Snow Leopard exhibit. Peterson explained Angelo needed to leave his former exhibit because he could no longer ingest the sand and dirt found within the grassy landscape. At the new exhibit, Zoo staff and contractors fabricated "fake" termite mounds, trees and logs to provide a more stimulating and pleasing environment. Instead of dirt and sand, the exhibit's substrate is wood chips, an organic material that is digestible, making the area sand-free.

Secondly, continuing to improve the SFZ animal enrichment program, staff installed new items in the Lion House. The three new items are: a hanging bungee device that encourages the cats to move and stretch for some of their food; a giant scratching post wrapped around a tree that both tigers and lions enjoy; and, lastly, resting platforms for the Big Cats within the Lion House. Director Peterson then reported that the Zoo recently welcomed classes from the San Francisco Unified School District for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual "Wild About Art and Science" Award Day. This program is open to any SFUSD K-5 class, and this year, over 850 submissions were received. Generous support from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation allowed the "winning" classes and all-expense-paid field trip to the Zoo including tours, animal encounter and an awards ceremony. Lastly, Peterson spoke of the arrival of the SFZ's new Chacoan peccaries that are on exhibit across from Eagle Island. While first thought to be extinct, scientists discovered these large mammals in 1975. South American peccaries are endangered due to habit fragmentation and destruction as well as hunting.

Advisor Stephens questioned the issue for the move of the anteater. Dr Crawford explained that he has a behavioral problem with ingesting sand, which caused an intestinal problem. He was kept inside while correcting the intestinal issue; however he continued ingesting the sand, so for the health of the animal, the decision was made to provide him with a new enclosure that would provide him safe materials.

**3. 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 – March 2012**

**PURCHASE FROM: ANIMAL SPECIES PRICE TOTAL DUE**

Thode Family Farm 1.2 Narragansett turkeys \$35 each \$175  
 Sebastopol, CA Meleagris gallopavo  
 707/829-0766 0.2 Standard bronze turkeys  
Meleagris gallopavo

Miller Park Zoo 0.1 African hedgehog \$300 \$300  
 1020 S. Morris Avenue Ateleurix albiventris  
 Bloomington, IL 61701  
 309/434-2825

**SALE TO:**

Long Beach Aquarium 4.0 Magellanic penguins \$2,000 each \$8,000  
 of the Pacific Spehniscus magellanicus  
 100 Aquarium Way  
 Long Beach, CA 90802  
 562/951-1714

**4. Animal Updates.** (Discussion)

David Bocian, VP Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS

ANIMAL UPDATES – FEBRUARY 2012					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
		<b>ACQUISITIONS</b>			
2	4.0	Black/White ruffed lemur	Loan in	Sacramento Zoo	
7	0.1	North American River Otter	Donation	Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park	
9	0.3	Chacoan peccary	Loan in	Los Angeles Zoo	
16	0.3	Fulvous whistling ducks	Donation	Sacramento Zoo	
29	0.4	Domestic polecat	Donation	UCSF	
		<b>DISPOSITION</b>		<b>Age at Death</b>	
1	0.1	Short-beaked echidna	Donation		Lincoln Park Zoo
8	1.0	West African black-crowned crane	Death	-32 years	Gout
11	0.1	Mallard	Death	10Y, 8M, 28D	Tumor
11	0.0.1	Golfodulcean poison arrow frog	Death	Unknown	One from group; pending results
14	0.1	Giant eland	Death	12Y, 6M, 19D	Heart arrhythmia
16	0.1	Cochin chicken	Death	7Y, 9M, 16D	Rectal Cancer

18	1.0	Black parrot	Death	13Y, 5M, 25D	Brain disease
18	0.1	Superb starling	Death	6Y, 10M, 6D	Pending
27	1.0	Eastern black rhinoceros	Death	24Y, 7M, 17D	Kidney failure

Advisor Stephens asked if the eland's heart arrhythmia was known. Mr. Bocian stated that he was not under treatment for this condition. It had been noted that he had lost some weight this year, but being as immobilization is not recommended in this species unless a condition is confirmed, this action was not taken. The day before his death he was normal but upon keeper arrival the next morning he was found dead. Stephens asked about the Andean bear. He was not included on this list as his death was in the following month. However, Mr. Bocian stated that he could not walk or stand on his rear legs as well as a spinal cord problem so with the medical issues the decision was made to euthanize. Advisor Spinelli asked how Baird's tapir, Goober, is doing. Dr. Crawford responded that at 15 years of age he is a "miracle" patient. He is continuing being treated for the mouth cancer. Member of Public, Mark Ennis, asked in regards to the polecats received from UCSF what experimentation program they were in. Mr. Bocian believed it was behavioral research but will need to follow-up. Mr. Ennis also asked if the rhinos had bred. Mr. Bocian stated that they had bred often in the past, and the female is definitely a geriatric animal. At this time options are being discussed to bring in another male animal for breeding but no specific plan has been developed. Member of Public, Tony Colonnese, commented on Wishbone, the Andean bear, and that he lived a long and full life and he wanted to compliment the excellent care the staff gave to him.

5. **SFZS Conservation Programs** (Information only)  
 Joe Fitting, VP of Education & Conservation  
 Mr. Fitting presented a report of fifteen conservation programs that have occurred in the last year which the San Francisco Zoo participates. These range from public events presented at the Zoo to funding projects and participation in conferences to better educated staff on conservation issues. Mr. Fitting stated that more information can be found on the San Francisco Zoo website.
6. **Announcements** (Information only)  
 Joe Fitting announced an upcoming conservation lecture at the Zoo regarding the practice of training Dancing Bears in India and the practice's impact on wildlife.
7. **Chair's Announcements.** (Information only)  
 None
8. **Old Business.** (Discussion)  
 Advisor Spinelli requested that the committee have the opportunity to meet with Dr. Maple when he returns to the Zoo. Director Peterson stated that this should be able to occur when he returns in late May.
9. **New Business/Future Agenda Items.** (Information only)
10. **Public Comments:**  
 Member of Public, Mark Ennis, asked if it is normal for an anteater to eat dirt. Dr. Crawford stated that this is normal behavior; however, unfortunately he ingested too much sand and this led to a bowel health issue which needed to be addressed. Member of Public, "Adriana", complimented the Zoo's Horticulture staff for the upkeep of the grounds.
11. **Adjournment.**  
 Meeting was adjourned at 5:34p.m.