

**RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT**

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

March 25, 2010

City Hall, Room 416

1:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Recreation and Park Commissioner, David Lee, Chair

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Gloria Bonilla

Zoological Society Board, Bill Beech

Zoological Society Board, Wayne Reading

Dr. Joseph Spinelli, Veterinarian Advisor

Sally Stephens, Animal Welfare Commission Representative

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

Adoption of Minutes of the February 25, 2010 Committee Meeting **ACTION: MSA**  
Member of Public, Mark Ennis, stated his objection that the minutes did not reflect his name on two comments: (1)Hippo Exhibit: his belief that SFZS has intentions on bringing a hippo into that exhibit and is not being up front on this issue; (2)General Comment: Question on fencing. Mr. Ennis does not see the necessity of completing a comment card to have his name included in the minutes as he has attended meetings for the past two years and everyone knows him. Commissioner Lee reminded Mr. Ennis that he is afforded the opportunity to submit his comments in writing to be an amendment to the minutes. Mr. Ennis stated he is aware of this option; however, he feels that the minutes should reflect his voiced public comments and that the minutes are excluding a lot of information and purposely written not to reflect that there is opposition to what SFZS does. It should not be necessary for his comments to be submitted in writing to be included in the minutes. He wishes his objections included in the minutes. Member of public, Phillip Geary, Commissioner of the Animal Care & Control Commission records the minutes for that commission and stated his opinion that the Joint Zoo Committee minutes should be more detailed. Commissioner Bonilla commented that she hopes these comments will be included in the minutes of this meeting and that more attention will be given to accurately record public comments in the future. It was discussed that the meetings are taped and that when transcribed attention to detail should be more diligent. Minutes were approved with an amendment specifying detailed comments by the public be included in future minutes.

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

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

Director Peterson reported that attendance for March through the 21<sup>st</sup> is 39,013 versus budget of 39,480, generating an unfavorable variance of 467 visitors. She stated that the zoo experienced excellent attendance this past Friday through Sunday with attendance over budget by 3, 235 visitors and admissions revenue over budget by \$23,365 for that period. On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Free Day the zoo in cooperation with the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigration Affairs distributed nearly 7,000 brochures on the City's census efforts. The brochures were designed for English, Latino and Chinese visitors encouraging them to participate in the national census. There was also a handout for children using the zoos penguin, meerkat and prairie dog colonies as examples to explain how the census works. The zoo hosts a monthly volunteer morning program, Renew the Zoo. This past months event had more than 350

participants dragged branches from the lakes, weeded the Puffer tracks, cleared out animal areas, planted and much more. This produced more than 1000 volunteer hours from these dedicated participants. This coming March 31<sup>st</sup> the zoo will be hosting a Big Bunny Spring Fling. Visitors will have the chance to explore the world of rabbits in the Big Bunny neighborhood and enjoy some hare tails and story time. Additionally the zoo is partnering with the SaveABunny rescue organization to give adults and children the opportunity to touch one of these rabbits and learn the requirements for having a bunny as a pet. The zoos education department has completed its orientation for two of the summer youth programs, Nature Trail and Talk on the Wildside. There were 244 attendees at the Nature Trail orientation with over 100 general applications, 50 scholarship applications and 45 applications for the Talk on the Wildside program. Once the applications are completed and received staff will interview the candidates and determine who is accepted into the program. There is a three day mandatory training period before the youth begin their official day as Nature Trail or Talk on the Wildside volunteers this summer. The zoo staff continues to investigate the options for the Hippo/Rhino exhibit. Director Peterson reported that there is no plan to bring in a hippo at this time. There was a question at the last meeting of the square footage of the area. Plans were examined with the resulting dimensions of the old rhino large yard is 11,000 square feet and the new rhino large yard is the same measurement. The old rhino small yard measured 2,700 square feet and the new rhino small yard is at 5,000 square feet. These measurements will be confirmed in the field. Commissioner Bonilla asked the question that due to the current financial situation what the policy is for visits to the zoo by community groups' particularly senior groups. Mr. Jenkins said that functions that have been available to San Francisco residents and organizations are still in place. Quarterly Senior Strolls and Members Mornings are held and before and after hours tours can be arranged for special groups with special needs. Also the Community Access Program is available for which a lot of non-profits qualify. Commission Lee stated that he was pleased with the Lunar New Year Festival at the zoo and Director Peterson again thanked him for his participation. Member of Public, Mark Ennis, asked for clarification on the dimensions of the rhino exhibit in that those quoted were for the exterior area and did not include the hippo section. Director Peterson stated that this was correct.

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

**ACTION: MSA**

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

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

**DONATION FROM:**

			<b>PRICE</b>	<b>TOTAL DUE</b>
Fresno's Chaffee Zoo 894 W. Belmont Ave. Fresno, CA 93728-2891 Tele – 559-498-5912 Fax - 559-264-9226 USDA # C-93-0752	1.0	Giant anteater <i>Myrmecophaga tridactyla</i>	NIL	NIL
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo 3900 Wildlife Way 3900 Wildlife Way Cleveland, OH 44109 USDA # 21-C-0003 Tel - 216-635-3335 Fax - 216-635-3320	1.0	Francois langur <i>Trachypithecus f. francoisi</i>	NIL	NIL

**SOLD TO:**

Naples Zoo 1590 Goodlette-Frank Road. Naples, FL 34102 USDA # 58-C-0855 David Tetzlaff Tel – 239-262-5409 Fax -239-262-6866	1.0	Reticulated giraffe <u><i>Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata</i></u>	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
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**DONATION TO:**

Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo 3701 S. 10th St. Omaha, NE 68107 Tele - 402-557-6932 Fax – 402-733-4415 USDA # 47-C-0003	3.0	Francois monkey <u><i>Trachypithecus f. francoisi</i></u>	NIL	NIL
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Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue Doris Duncan 403 Mecham Road Petaluma, CA 94952 Tel - 707 486 0226 Fax – 707-992-0276 USDA # 93-C-0827	1.0	Bobcat <u><i>Felis rufus</i></u>	NIL	NIL
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San Diego Zoo PO Box 120551 San Diego, CA 92112 USDA # 93-C-040 Tel – 619-231-1515 Fax – 619-231-0249	0.1	Francios monkey <u><i>Trachypithecus f. francoisi</i></u>	NIL	NIL
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Steinhart Aquarium/CAS 55 Music Concourse Dr. SF, CA 94118 Atten: Barb Andrews Tel - 415-379-5206 Fax - 415-379-5705	0.0.6	Darkling beetles <u><i>Tenebrionidae sp.</i></u>	NIL	NIL
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Commissioner Bonilla asked when SFZ takes ownership of an animal does care in place for that animal remains the same or are they changed. Mr. Jenkins responded that protocols and procedures in effect are continued through transitioning to SFZ procedures and protocols. Dr. Spinelli asked which giraffe is being sent to the Naples Zoo and how it is being transported. Mr. Jenkins responded that it is the male giraffe born approximately a year ago and transport will be by truck. Dr. Spinelli asked if the animal is halter trained. Mr. Jenkins stated that the animal is not halter trained and with two drivers the trip continues around the clock and should take approximately two days. Ms. Stephens asked if the new exhibit planned at the Naples Zoo is not built for whatever reason does the sale get cancelled. Mr. Jenkins explained that the sale may not go through or may be put in abeyance. The animal cannot be shipped nor the zoo accept the animal until the USDA approves the exhibit. Ms. Stephens also asked how does SFZ know Naples Zoo is able to care for the giraffe if never having one. Mr. Jenkins stated

that there is a process in effect of discussions and checks and balances to insure the care of the animal. Member of Public, Mark Ennis, asked if Mr. Jenkins could answer questions on the anteaters: (1) He is confused as to the ownership issue: is SFZ taking ownership of the male or female at this time; (2) When did female arrive in SFZ and when she is introduced to the male it is his understanding this is part of a breeding program. He is not sure if the giant anteater is an endangered species so he wants to know what breeding program this is as it is his understanding that the SSP deals with endangered species only; (3) If breeding occurs and the female becomes pregnant will she still be allowed to be with the male or is she separated; (4) When discussions occurred about bringing the female to SFZ was there consideration of sending the male to Fresno if that facility is better because he feels the SFZ enclosure is not adequate as the male paces all day and will the exhibit that used to house mountain tapirs be accessible to the anteaters and also are more capybara's going to be into the zoo and put back into that enclosure. Mr. Ennis also made a statement about the sale of the giraffe: he feels SFZ is producing a lot of giraffes and is wondering if there are any pregnant giraffes currently at SFZ and are there any more sales pending. Commissioner Lee stated that being as Mr. Ennis has posed a number of questions perhaps he and Mr. Jenkins can speak after as there are many other items on today's agenda. Member of Public, Mr. Geary, asked as a point of clarification as these are action items he is not sure if the committee approves these transactions before they can happen or speaking specifically on the sale of the giraffe if the committee says no would that stop the sale or has it already happened. He is unclear just how it works. Commissioner Lee stated that the action item is to recommend these transactions to the full Recreation & Parks Commission at that meeting. When the Commission meets is when the vote to approve the transactions is taken. The animal has not been transported yet.

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

DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
<b>ACQUISITIONS</b>					
1	0.0.1	Hadada ibis	Birth		
15	2.1	Bearded dragon	Dona		Private Party
<b>DISPOSITIONS</b>					
				Age at Death	
2	2.2	Violaceous euphonia	Disappeared	Various	Inventory correction
6	0.0.1	Hadada ibis	Death	0y 0m 6d	Pending
7	0.1	Francois monkey	Death	31y +/-	Euthanized-pending
19	1.0	Leopard gecko	Death	15y 0m	Euthanized-pending
22	1.0	Magellanic penguin	Death	19y 8m 23d	Pending
24	0.1	Warthog	Death	14y 10m 19d	Euthanized-pending
26	0.0.1	Black-tailed prairie dog	Disappeared		Inventory correction

Mr. Jenkins clarified for the Committee that in regard to AZA SSP's they are not necessarily exclusive to endangered animals but also deal with threatened animals as well as a species of concern. Ms. Stephens asked regarding the suspected cause of death of the penguin, Viral Encephalitis, is that contagious. Mr. Jenkins answered that since speaking with the veterinarian this is not considered the cause and investigation into the death is still being investigated but it does seem to be viral related but definitely not West Nile.

**5. Mid-Year Budget Review & Financial Report** (Information Only)

Wayne Reading, CFO, SFZS

CFO Wayne Reading presented and reviewed the Financial Report, Year to Date, February 28, 2010. (Attachment 1).

Commissioner Bonilla wanted to applaud staff for facing the reality of the financial situation and making efforts and cutting costs making sure a deficit situation did not develop. She stated that if there are deferred maintenance or some expenses that are critical to operations it will be necessary to find revenue so that these are taken care of in a timely manner. She asked if there are any critical line items that need attention. Director Peterson responded that one way in which the zoo is focusing on maintenance issues is to reduce the footprint of the facility and there is a contingency in the revised budget for maintenance issues. In addition this year a very skilled maintenance supervisor was brought on staff and that has contributed to reduced expenses in terms of efficiencies in procurement and staff management of overtime. Ms. Stephens asked if the not payable to the City for \$680,000 is for salaries and the PC is for the utilities past charges. Mr. Reading responded in the affirmative. Ms. Stephens also stated that she wants to make sure that any reduction in animal care staff is not a reduction in animal care. Director Peterson pointed out that is always taken into consideration and that the collection is much reduced from previous times. Member of Public, Mark Ennis, voiced his opinion that the zoo is not a financially solid institution citing the unpaid utility bill that he does not see the zoo being able to repay. Also in reference to the reduced collection this is the reason for his comments on the transfer of animals and why he wants such comments on record as this does affect the zoo's expenses. Member of the Public, Nancy Wuerfel, presented a spreadsheet outlining the "Comparison of RPD's Zoo Expense Budgets Year to Year". (Attachment 2). The purpose of presenting this document at the Committee was to spotlight the financial matters of the Recreation & Parks Department and discrepancies in that budget created to pay zoo expenses with their reimbursement. She stated that her comments were only referencing the City's zoo budget not the Zoological Society budget. The lease agreement between the City and the Zoo defines repayment of costs that the Zoo owes the City for certain authorized items. Each month the budget lists the amounts to be reimbursed; however, these amounts include items not outlined in the lease agreement and the amounts listed in the budget recovery to be reimbursed by the zoo do not equal the repayment of these expenses. She also cited the FTE increase from 8 to 12 from FY08-09 to 10. Also the concern that the Controller's office is not aware of these issues and will be reviewing this budget was expressed. Commissioner Lee asked how the overhead figures from 05 through 11 were compiled. Ms. Wuerfel got these figures from a report prepared by RPD staff. Mr. Reading stated that while he cannot speak to the RPD budget process as he is not involved in that he is not sure of the accuracy of the FTE figures and is not aware of any maintenance expenses over the years charged to the Zoo. Ms. Wuerfel stated that she does not expect resolution of this today but wanted to bring this to attention to reach a resolution. Mr. Reading stated that billing is received on labor costs and that is what is paid by the zoo. Further examination of the budget is needed to determine actual amounts reimbursable by the Zoo.

**6. Announcements** (Information only)

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

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

Dr. Spinelli commented on the item from last month regarding the euthanization of the boa. He stated that a detailed report was prepared by Dr. Jencek that shows extensive veterinary care was given to the animal prior to the decision. Result of postmortem examination showed severe spine injury and damage to the spinal cord.

- 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.
- Member of Public, Mark Ennis, stated his disappointment with the Committee particularly referencing that he spends a great deal of time at the zoo observing the animals and came to this meeting asking questions regarding the anteater and capybara as a public forum and Chairman Lee suggested that he and Mr. Jenkins discuss these issues outside of the meeting timeframe. He feels that dismissing his questions being discussed at this public forum displays a lack of care for animal welfare.
- Member of Public, Philip Geary, asked when the presentation on the update of the Master Plan for the zoo was going to be placed on the agenda. Director Peterson stated that the item would be on the April agenda.

**10. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:19pm.