

RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

April 26, 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 March 22, 2012 Committee Meeting

2. **San Francisco Zoo Administrative Report (Discussion)**
Tanya Peterson, Executive Director & President, SFZS
Director Peterson reported that with 8 rain days, March attendance ended with 45,875 visitors, under projections by 9,125. March's admissions revenue thus is under budget by \$54,934. Attendance for the first twenty-four days of April is 69,124 and over budget by 8,824 visitors or 14.6%. Year-to-date attendance is 632,232 visitors versus budget of 569,300, which is over prior budget by 62,932 visitors. Director Peterson reported that this year, the Zoo will offer a complimentary, one-year Teacher Membership to all San Francisco Unified School District teachers. The offer is good until June 1st. Director Peterson also reported two new Patas monkeys, a male and female, have arrived at the Zoo. Patas monkeys are managed by a Species Survival Plan. The male is recommended to breed with the females. She also noted twenty-five frogs were added to the exhibit located in the education building. Also, she reported that the Woodlawn Foundation has donated \$30,000 in support of the Young Environmentalist Program (YEP). Each year, some 300 teen volunteers participate in five comprehensive education programs that fall under YEP. These programs are Nature Trail, Junior Zoologists, Talk on the Wild Side, Zoo Teaching Assistants and Zoo Crew. YEP also offers youth an opportunity to move into paid internships and permanent employment within the San Francisco Zoo. Director Peterson announced that the Zoological Society will host its annual fundraiser, ZooFest 2012, this upcoming Saturday. The theme is "Elegance on the Serengeti" in honor of the memory of Leanne Bovet Roberts who was a generous contributor to the Zoo's African Savannah region.

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

DONATION TO:	ANIMAL SPECIES	PRICE	TOTAL DUE
Blank Park Zoo 7401 SW 9 th Street Des Moines, IA 50315	1.0 Superb starling <i>Spreo superbus</i>	NIL	N/A
Sylvan Heights Bird Park PO Drawer 368	1.0 Black spur-winged goose <i>lectroterus gambensis niger</i>	NIL	N/A

Scotland Neck, NC 27874

San Diego Zoo Safari Park 15500 San Pasqual Valley Rd Escondido, CA 92027	1.0 Indian muntjac <u>Muntiacus muntjak</u>	NIL	N/A
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PURCHASE FROM:

Thode Family Farm 8308 Mill Station Road Sebastopol, CA	0.6 chickens <u>Gallus gallus domesticus</u>	\$20 each	\$120
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4. Animal Updates. (Discussion)
David Bocian, VP Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS

ANIMAL UPDATES – FEBRUARY 2012					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
ACQUISITIONS					
16	1.0	Patas monkey	Donation	From Santa Barbara Zoo	
16	0.1	Patas monkey	Donation	From Santa Barbara Zoo	
18	0.1	Rabbit	Donation	From Private Party	
DISPOSITION					
				Age at Death	
2	1.0	Grey seal	Death	-42 years	Pending
2	1.0	California kingsnake	Death	3Y, 1M, 29D	Pending
5	1.0	Spectacles bear	Death	25Y, 4M, 10D	Pending
16	2.0	Magellanic penguin	Loan transfer		Long Beach Aquarium
16	4.0	Magellanic penguin	Sale		Long Beach Aquarium
18	0.1	White-faced whistling duck	Unknown	13Y, 7M, 11D	Pending
19	1.0	Chilean flamingo	Death	Unknown	Predated in exhibit
23	1.0	Black-tailed prairie dog	Death	-1Y	Pending
26	1.0	Marbled teal	Death	4Y, 8M, 27D	Pending
28	0.1	Rabbit	Death	4Y, 11M, 27D	Pending
29	1.0	Black spur-winged goose	Donation		Sylvan Heights Bird Park

Committee Advisor Spinelli commented that he had gone by the Tapir's enclosure and noticed a barrier was in place and asked if he was alright. Mr. Bocian responded that he is still alive; however, view of him has become limited. He continues to decline but is still alive. When he has bouts of bleeding, it is visible. Member of Public, Tony Colonese, commented on Orkney, the Grey seal, stating that he believes he was older than 42. When Mr. Colonese came to work at the zoo Orkney & his mate were full grown. They had come from the Navy Bio-Sonar Lab where they were used as research animals. SFZ was successful in breeding the pair and stated that Orkney was a wonderful animal. In regards to the Spectacle bear, currently often referred to as Andean bear, he hopes the Zoo will consider keeping the species in the collection in the future. They are unique amongst the family of bears and are considered to be the evolution of the new world the closest to the Panda. Member of the Public, Mark Ennis, asked if there was more information on what the parasite was that killed the snake and how that happened and are there any more Andean bears on exhibit at SFZ. Mr. Bocian responded that there are no Andean bears here at this time. SFZ Veterinary, Graham Crawford stated that the identity of the parasite is unknown but it traveled through the snake's intestinal track and was in the liver. It was a surprise finding and was nothing that could have been diagnosed.

5. **AZA Animal Management Plans** (Information only)
David Bocian, VP Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS
Mr. Bocian will provide an update on managed species at the San Francisco Zoo.
Mr. Bocian presented an overview of how much effort goes into the management of zoo populations. AZA is a broad professional organization which covers everything related to Zoos and Aquariums not just animal management. He reviewed the parts within AZA which deal with animal management: Wildlife Conservation & Management Committee which handles animal husbandry. Under the WCMC are Taxon Advisory Groups or TAG's which are groups of similar animals. Next are Species Survival Plans or SSPs which is a Breeding and Transfer Plan for each species. There are also many Studbooks which are pedigree and demographic history of the population. He then reviewed the process used by TAGs and SSPs. The point being that there are many different plans and a great deal of effort involved in the management of the various species in AZA.
Member of Public, Tony Colonese, asked if there was any plan to incorporate at the subspecies or stay at the species level. Mr. Bocian responded that probably not. Member of Public, Mark Ennis, asked why certain monkey species are managed into extinction and what factors are involved in the decision. Mr. Bocian responded that space surveys are conducted to determine how many spaces various zoos have allotted for monkeys in two years and five years. Then they look at how successful breeding is in certain populations. Also, some species are geriatric and not breeding, animals are hard to obtain from overseas for breeding, or there are no animals available. Committee Advisor Spinelli followed up on the question that when referring to extinction, AZA is not making the decision to send species to extinction in the wild but whether there will be a population in America in captivity. Mr. Bocian responded that this is true and while a poor choice of words it is the term used in the program.
6. **Announcements** (Information only)
None
7. **Chair's Announcements.** (Information only)
None
8. **Old Business.** (Discussion)
Advisor Stephens asked about the tiger, Padang. She had been contacted by a member of the public, regarding the death of this animal, who stated seeing bandages on her one arm and then another bandage on a leg then outside with no bandages. Death was reported as kidney failure but wondered if it was from an infection. Veterinarian Crawford explained that bedsores had developed and those were what was bandaged. At some point she did not tolerate the bandage so it was decided to remove it.
9. **New Business/Future Agenda Items.** (Information only)
Is Dr. Maple going to be at next month's meeting. Director Peterson responded that it is planned that he will be here for questions; however, his schedule has not been firmed up as yet.
10. **Public Comments:**
None.
11. **Adjournment.**
Meeting was adjourned at 5:37p.m.