

**RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT**

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

April 28, 2011

San Francisco Zoo

5:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

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

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Tom Harrison

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Larry Martin

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Paige Arata

Committee Advisor, Sally Stephens

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

Adoption of Minutes of the February 24, 2011 Committee Meeting

Adoption of Minutes of the March 24, 2011 Committee Meeting

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

Tanya Peterson, Executive Director & President, SFZS

Director Peterson announced April attendance is ahead of projections. As of April 25, attendance was at 68,925 against projection of 63,200, creating a favorable variance of 5,725 visitors. Also, she referred to the announcement at last month's meeting of the expected arrival of two blind sea lions from The Marine Mammal Center, and she is pleased to report renovations to the existing pool have been completed. The sea lions now can be transferred to the San Francisco Zoo (SFZ). Director Peterson also reported the SFZ has been afforded the opportunity to house an Amur (Siberian) tiger which currently lives in Omaha at the Henry Doorly Zoo. The Omaha Zoo has been a leader in big cat breeding and conservation programs since 1977 when it built one of the largest big cat facilities in Northern America. Director Peterson assured the public that from an institutional viewpoint, the San Francisco Zoo is more than capable of housing a Siberian/Amur tiger. She noted there had not been a reduction in the Zoo's carnivore staff when "Tony", the Zoo's most recent Siberian tiger, died last year, and there were significant renovations made to the tiger exhibit in 2008. Lastly, the SFZS recently received its five-year accreditation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. For these reasons and the conservation issues to be addressed subsequently by Mr. Bocian, Director Peterson recommended the acquisition of the female tiger from the Omaha Zoo to be approved. [A picture was shown of the animal.]

**3. Animal Transactions. (Action Item) ACTION: MSA**

David Bocian, VP of Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS

**SAN FRANCISCO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS**  
**ANIMAL TRANSACTION RATIFICATION - March 2011**

<b>DONATION TO:</b>		<b>PRICE</b>	<b>TOTAL DUE</b>
Chehaw Wild Animal Park 105 Chehaw Park Road Albany, GA 31701	1.0 Red kangaroos <i>Macropus rufus</i>	NIL	N/A

229/420-1057

Sacramento Zoo 3930 W. Land Park Drive Sacramento, CA 95822 916/808-5166	1.0 Yellow-backed duiker <u>Cephalophus silvicultor</u>	NIL	N/A
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Charles Paddock Zoo 9305 Pismo Avenue Atascadero, CA 93422 805/461-5080	1.0 Red-capped cardinal <u>Paroaria gularis</u>	NIL	N/A
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**DONATION FROM:**

Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo 3701 S. 10 <sup>th</sup> Street Omaha, NE 68107 402/733-8401	0.1 Amur tiger <u>Panthera altaica</u>	NIL	N/A
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Marine Mammal Center 2000 Bunker Road Sausalito, CA 94965 415/289-7325	2.0 California sealions <u>Zalophus californianus</u>	NIL	N/A
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Mr. Bocian began with the conservation background and environmental pressures on Siberian/Amur tigers in the world. He then explained that not only is the preservation of these animals assisted by zoos, but the aid such housing gives to field study is invaluable. Also, by exhibiting these cats in zoos, awareness of their plight in the wild is made evident, which in turn aids tiger conservation. He concluded that he fully agrees with Director Peterson in the ability of SFZ staff and facility to house this animal. Mr. Bocian then reviewed the history of the two sea lions arriving from The Marine Mammal Center (TMMC). TMMC and the SFZ have collaborated to save the lives of two blind sea lions, Silent Knight and his companion, Henry, both of whom cannot be released to the wild. The exhibit was also examined by the USDA, which agreed that this is a favorable acquisition, as well as signed off on the renovations made to the Zoo's sea lion pool.

Commissioner Harrison asked if the incoming tiger could be bred. Mr. Bocian stated that while it remains possible at her age, no discussions or decisions have been made at this time.

Harrison then asked if the tiger had been born at the Omaha Zoo, and Bocian stated he did not have that information on hand but would research it. Advisor Stephens asked if the tiger will be alone and are there plans to bring in a companion. Bocian stated that at this point, no definite plans have been made to house a companion. Commissioner Harrison commended SFZ staff on the new acquisitions.

**SAN FRANCISCO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS  
ANIMAL TRANSACTION RATIFICATION - April 2011**

**DONATION FROM:**

**PRICE      TOTAL  
 DUE**

San Francisco State University 1600 Holloway Avenue San Francisco, CA 94132 415/338-7296	0.0.50 Mountain yellow-legged frog <u>Rana muscosa</u>	NIL	N/A
Paul Haskins Recycled Reptiles 2140 Valleywood Drive San Bruno, CA 831/535-2437	0.0.1 Chilean rose hair tarantula <u>Grammostola rosea</u>	NIL	N/A
SF Animal Care & Control 1200 15 <sup>th</sup> Street San Francisco, CA 94103 415/554-9415	0.2 Peruvian long haired guinea pigs <u>Cavia porcellus</u>	NIL	N/A
The Animal Connection 2550 Judah Street San Francisco, CA 94122 415/564-6482	2.0 Guinea pigs <u>Cavia porcellus</u>	NIL	N/A
Cecilia Borgenstam 4454 17 <sup>th</sup> Street San Francisco, CA 94114 415/814-2993	0.1 Mini-lop rabbit <u>Oryctolagus cuniculus</u>	NIL	N/A

Advisor Stephens questioned if the plan is to keep the frogs here or release them into the wild. Bocian stated that seems to be the desire of the program with San Francisco State to create a colony of the frogs.

**4. Animal Updates.** (Discussion)  
David Bocian, VP Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS

ANIMAL UPDATES – MARCH 2011					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
		<b>ACQUISITIONS</b>			
		<b>DISPOSITION</b>		<b>Age at Death</b>	
2	0.1	Emperior tamarin	Donation		Los Angeles Zoo
4	0,1	White-nosed coati	Death	16Y 9M 6D	Pending
5	0.1	Domestic guinea pig	Death	6Y 2M 1D	Pending
9	1.0	SF gartersnake	Death	6Y 9M 0D	Pending
10	0.1	European rabbit	Death	10Y 9M 3D	Pending
28	0.1	Long-tailed chinchilla	Death	8Y 2M 25D	Pending

**5. Announcements** (Information only)

No announcements.

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

No announcements.

**7. Old Business.** (Discussion)

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

Advisor Stephens stated that tours of the Zoo are helpful to the Committee and requested that one be scheduled, possibly after the arrival of the tiger.

**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.

**10. Adjournment.**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:24p.m.