

RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

May 24, 2012

San Francisco Zoo

11:00 a.m.

Roll Call:

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Larry Martin

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Mark Buell

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

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

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 April 26, 2012 Committee Meeting

2. San Francisco Zoo Administrative Report (Discussion)

Tanya Peterson, Executive Director & President, SFZS

Director Peterson reported that April attendance was 82,601 which is over projection by 7,601 visitors. As of May 21, attendance for the month is 55,004 versus budget of 50,900, generating a favorable variance of 4,104 visitors. Actual year-to-date attendance through May 21 exceeds budget by 65,813 visitors or 10.3%. Over the Memorial weekend, the Zoo is hosting a health expo called "Summer Shape Up" that emphasizes fitness for both the Zoo's animals and visitors. From 10am to 4pm, all three days will be filled with activities to get families moving and active. There will be free health screenings, free healthy snack giveaways and much more. In addition, the Zoo Games Challenge Course will be open and ready for visitors to enjoy. It's a 10-station course designed to compare the physical movements of animals to that of humans. Two examples are "Stretch Like a Giraffe" and "Waddle Like a Penguin". Summer Shape Up will be a great added-value experience for visitors as well help educate the public about the need for all – both two-legged and four-legged – to stay fit and healthy. On Saturday, May 26, the Education Department will host a Docent Graduation Celebration and welcome ten new docents to the Zoo. This event culminates a ten week course of arduous learning. Thanks to all who participate in the Docent program. Director Peterson announced that the Zoo provides free admission to San Francisco residents on certain days of the year. These "Free Days" are usually held on the first Wednesday of each month. This coming July the first Wednesday is July 4th. Given that attendance was over 28,000 on the July 4th of the year 2007, and given other considerations associated with this holiday, the Zoo will not offer Free Day on July 4th. The Zoo has hosted five Free Days so far this year and will offer the 6th on June 6. People are encouraged to use the Zoo's website for more information on Free Days. Director Peterson introduced Dr. Terry Maple who met with Committee Advisors Joseph Spinelli and Sally Stephens. Dr. Maple has been engaged by the Zoological Society as Professor in Residence to assist the instituting an academic and holistic approach to management of the animal collections at the Zoo. Finally, Director Peterson announced the retirement of Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations, Lora LaMarca, at the end of June. Ms. LaMarca was given a Certificate of Appreciation for her service signed by Recreation and Park Commissioner Larry Martin and Director Peterson.

3. Animal Transactions. (Action Item)

ACTION: MSAA

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 – May 2012**

DONATION FROM:	ANIMAL SPECIES	PRICE	TOTAL DUE
Memphis Zoo 2000 Prentiss Place Memphis, TN 38112 901/333-6703	1.0 Francoi monkey <i>Trachypithecus francoisi francoisi</i>	NIL	N/A

DONATION FROM: Oakland Zoo PO Box 5238 Oakland, CA 94605 510/632-9525 x161	0.1 Hamerkop <i>Scopus umbretta</i>	NIL	N/A
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San Antonio Zoological Gardens & Aquarium 3903 N. St. Mary's Street San Antonio, TX 78212 210/734-7184 x1330 FAX: 210/734-7291	0.0.1 Nine-banded armadillo <i>Dasypus novemcinctus</i>	NIL	N/A
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University of California-Davis Adam G. Clause Junior Research Specialist H. Bradley Shaffer Lab, Department of Evolution and Ecology 805/807-8792 cell	0.0.4 California salamanders <i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	NIL	N/A
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PURCHASED FROM: Half Moon Bay Grain & Feed 331 Main Street Half Moon Bay, CA 94019 650/726-4814	0.3 Domestic rabbits <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	\$30.00	\$90.00
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Mr. Bocian corrected the purchase price shown on the agenda for the three Domestic rabbits from \$25/each to \$30/each.

4. Animal Updates. (Discussion)

David Bocian, VP Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS

ANIMAL UPDATES – FEBRUARY 2012					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
		ACQUISITIONS			
1	1.4	Wild Turkeys	Purchase	Private Farm	
24	1.0	Queensland koala	Loan In	San Diego Zoo	
24	0.1	Four-toed hedgehog	Purchase	Miller Park Zoo	
		DISPOSITION		Age at Death	

5	0.0.1	California newt	Death	Unknown	1 of group from SFSU
6	0.1	Domestic turkey	Death	13Y, 3M, 20D	Wasting Disease
7	0.1	Sumatran tiger	Death	22Y, 4M, 7D	Kidney Failure/Heart
17	1.0	Goat	Death	13Y, 10M, 7D	Debilitating Arthritis
20	0.1	Great horned owl	Death	-50Y	Neurological Disease
25	1.0	Indian muntjac	Donation to		San Diego Zoo Safari Park

5. **Approval of Fiscal Year 2013 Operating Budget for SFZS** (Action Item) **MSA**
Wayne Reading, Chief Financial Officer, SFZS
Mr. Reading presented the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2013 for approval. Advisor Stephens asked about the outstanding note payable to CCSF. Mr. Reading commented that with the current financial position of SFZ payments will be increased in 2013. With this increase in payments CCSF has agreed to waive the interest charges. Advisor Stephens questioned the increase of expenses in the Animal Division. Mr. Reading responded that this increase is primarily due to wages and benefits. Commissioner Buell stated that the increase amounts to 5% and as a cautionary note, while we want to pay top salaries, it is important to not let the increase continue as possible. Advisor Spinelli was curious about the use of capital donations. Mr. Reading responded that these funds are used for operating expenses only. Commissioner Buell asked what reserves SFZ carries. Mr. Reading stated that \$2.5m is currently in a money market account. Commissioner Buell congratulated Mr. Reading on preparation of the budget and one that works as well as it does in hard times is a reflection on the organization.

6. **Announcements** (Information only)
None

7. **Chair's Announcements.** (Information only)
None

8. **Old Business.** (Discussion)
Advisor Spinelli commented on meeting with Dr. Maple. He stated it is a tribute to Director Peterson's leadership for bringing him in to examine the wellness of animals both physical and mental. The tie-in with human wellness is an interesting concept. One exhibit in particular, that of the Spider monkeys which is adjacent to the children's play area, allows children to mimic the monkeys as well the monkeys mimic the children. He thanked director Peterson and welcomed Dr. Maple.

9. **New Business/Future Agenda Items.** (Information only)
Advisor Stephens stated she would like to see Dr. Maple make a presentation at a Joint Zoo Committee meeting in the future.

10. **Public Comments:**
None.

11. **Adjournment.**
Meeting was adjourned at 11:48a.m.