

RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

June 17, 2010

City Hall, Room 416

2:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Recreation and Park Commissioner, David Lee, Chair

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Gloria Bonilla

Zoological Society Board, Maria Alvarez

Zoological Society Board, Deborah Robbins

Dr. Joseph Spinelli, Veterinarian Advisor

Ms. Sally Stephens, Advisor

(Chairman Lee announced that Zoological Society Board member Deborah Robbins is moving off the Committee and thanked her for her years of dedication and service. This will be her last meeting as a member.)

1. Joint Zoo Committee Meeting Minutes (Action Item)

Adoption of Minutes of the May 27, 2010 Committee Meeting

ACTION: MSA

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

Wayne Reading, Chief Financial Officer, SFZS

May attendance was 76,721 versus budget of 76,000, generating a favorable variance of 721 visitors. Year-to-date attendance through May 31 is down 1.9% or 13,400 visitors with revenue down \$55,000. June attendance to date is 35,400 which is below budget by 7,000 visitors. SFZ Education Department has begun their summer session of Zoo Camp which will run June 7 through August 13. Spaces are still available for various sessions and enrollment can be done by direct contact with the education department as well as online at www.sfzoo.org. Kid's Fest was held on June 4th with 380 guests attending. The event was successful and met budgeted revenue goal. Local vendors and suppliers participated in the event showcasing their products. The Zoo's recycling efforts are proving successful with statistics showing that in March 66% of total waste was diverted through the program. In April 74% of green waste went into compost. A concentrated effort has been made in the last six months that food waste and other materials are recycled correctly. As the program moves forward SFZ is confident it will continue to be successful.

3. Animal Transactions. (Action Item)

Bob Jenkins, VP – Institutional Advancement, SFZS

ACTION: MSA

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

DONATION TO:

PRICE TOTAL DUE

ZooAmerica 100 W. Hersheypark Dr. Park Bl. & Route 743 N Hershey, PA 17033 USDA # 23-C-0020 Tele – 717—534-3820 Fax – 717-534-3151	1.0	Ocelot <u>Leopardus pardalis</u>	NIL	N/A
North Carolina Zoological Park 4401 Zoo Parkway Asheboro, NC 27205 Tele – 336-879-7000 Fax – 336-879-2891 USDA – 55-C-007	0.1	Ocelot <u>Leopardus pardalis</u>	NIL	N/A

Advisor Stephens asked if the animals had been transferred already, Mr. Jenkins answered that they had been. Member of Public, Deniz Bolbol, commented that the Committee should be approving the transactions before they occur. Chairman Lee stated that in discussions with the City Attorney the process of transactions is a management responsibility. Mr. Jenkins explained that through City resolution the Director and Staff of SFZ is delegated to make the decision on transactions. Ms. Bolbol questioned why then is a vote by this Committee required. Mr. Jenkins responded that, as directed by another City requirement, being as the animals are property of CCSF and have a value a City Commission must accept the transactions so that they be accessed into the City books as assets. This Committee approves the transactions to pass to the Recreation and Parks Commission for acceptance.

5. Animal Updates. (Discussion)
 Bob Jenkins, VP – Institutional Advancement, SFZS

DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
ACQUISITIONS					
5	0.0.1	Superb starling	Birth		
17	0.0.2	Guinea pig	Birth		
19	0.0.1	Magellanic penguin	Birth		
21	0.0.2	Waldrapp ibis	Birth		
22	0.0.1	Magellanic penguin	Birth		
23	0.0.1	Magellanic penguin	Birth		
23	0.0.1	Waldrapp ibis	Birth		
25	0.0.1	Waldrapp ibis	Birth		
30	0.0.1	Emperor tamarin	Birth		
30	0.0.1	Emperor tamarin	Birth-Loan in		Jackson, MS.
DISPOSITIONS					
				Age at Death	
Red-necked(Bennett's)					
1	1.0	Wallaby	Death	16y6m29d	Pending
10	1.0	California quail	Loan transfer		CoyotePointMuseum
15	0.1	Bearded dragon	Death	6y	Pending
16	1.0	Giant mouse lemur	Death	16y9m13d	Septicemia
17	1.0	Reticulated giraffe	Sale		Naples Zoo. FL.
18	0.1	Sheep	Death	14y2m23d	Pending

25	0.0.1	Superb starling	Death	0y0m20d	Pending (hatched 5/5/10)
26	1.0	Ocelot	Donation		Zoo America
26	1.0	Ocelot	Loan transfer		Zoo America

Committee Advisor Stephens questioned that with another death result of Septicemia is their concern. Mr. Jenkins responded that there was no contact between the Giant mouse lemur and the animals previously reported and that Septicemia is often a secondary cause of death. Ms. Stephens asked being as Zoo America is a combination facility of amusement park and zoo extra research is done regarding animal care. Mr. Jenkins responded that extra checks are taken and Zoo America is AZA Accredited. General Curator Mike Sulak reported that the ocelots are part of the AZA SSP program and are managed under the parameters of that program.

{Chairman Lee introduced Zoological Society Board member, Maria Alvarez who will be filling the position vacated by Deborah Robbins. He welcomed her on behalf of the Committee.}

Member of Public, Deniz Bolbol, asked (1)When Mr. Jenkins last visited Zoo America and wanted shown in the record her opinion that this move is unacceptable and SFZ should not be sending animals to amusement parks. It seems that if a facility is AZA accredited it is automatically acceptable and participation the SSP is voluntary and therefore not managed by the program rules; (2) Did the Naples Zoo complete the giraffe enclosure; (3) What are the ages of the ocelots. Mr. Jenkins responded that he had been to Zoo America 10-12 years ago; completion of the enclosure at Naples Zoo was confirmed. Mr. Sulak stated that the male ocelot is 10 years old and the female is between 7-8 years.

8. Chair's Announcements. (Information only)

Committee Chair Lee announced that the tour that was scheduled for last month's meeting and had to be cancelled due to weather would be rescheduled. The request was made at the May meeting by a member of the public to have detailed comments on animal deaths included in the annual Chief Veterinarian report. Chairman Lee is working with staff to see that this report is included.

9. Old Business. (Discussion)

Update on Black rhino/Hippo enclosure; Giant Eland; Blackbuck/Muntjac; Asian rhino. General Curator Sulak reported: (1) Black Rhino/Hippo enclosure: There are no scheduled changes to the exhibit. The rhinos are thriving in the enclosure. Staff is pursuing modifications to the hippo exhibit to accommodate the Baird tapir. Estimates have been received approaching several thousand dollars which must be raised as funds are not currently available. The tapir is currently doing fine in the Lion House; (2) Giant Eland: The Giant eland is doing fine and shows no stereotypic behavior. Efforts had been made for places to relocate the animal with no interest. Alternatives being considered are moving some hoofstock for companionship as well as acquiring Common eland which is a different subspecies; (3) Blackbuck/Muntjac: Currently have two Blackbucks in separate yards. One is a neutered male who has demonstrated behavioral problems and one female. There had been arrangements made to transfer the two male Muntjacs to the Saint Louis Zoo but due to last minute problems which developed at that zoo the transfer was cancelled. The animals have been moved from the quarantine facility at the hospital back to the yard where they had been previously located. Also, the Emu who had been off exhibit is being moved into the yard with the Blackbuck and

Muntjacs; (4) Asian rhino: Gauhauti, the one-horned rhino is doing remarkably well in the exhibit with no medical problems at this time. Changes are being made in management protocols so that he is on exhibit more frequently. Initially when he had been moved to the building he had been given access and when people were present he enjoyed visiting with them. He likes people.

Advisor, Dr. Spinelli, asked about the mentioned behavioral problems with the Blackbuck. Mr. Sulak responded that he had been a hand raised castrated animal that exhibits stereotypic behavior with no fear of people and will come after people actively. He has behavioral problems with other animals because he was hand raised; he doesn't know he is a Blackbuck. Dr. Spinelli asked if there have been any attempts to address this issue. Mr. Sulak commented that he is housed alone and there have been plans suggested to move him with the other Blackbuck. Because, however, that is a large yard and there is no place to lock him up there would be an issue with safety of people. He can see other animals across and to the side of him; however, he shows no interest in these animals. Advisor Stephens asked in reference to the Giant eland, it was her understanding that there had been three animals originally and that this eland killed the others, so, if other animals are put into the same exhibit what are the guarantees that such incidents will not happen again. Mr. Sulak responded that it is felt that if a female is put in it will be less of an issue and that the incidents took place when the animals first arrived and were in quarantine. There is always a concern when you have a horned animal and SFZ will not move briskly to rush something in. Ms. Stephens also asked about the rhino and if he prefers being in the building why not let him and are there enrichments that can be employed. Mr. Sulak stated that modifications are being made to the exhibit to make it more comfortable for the animal and more esthetically pleasing to the public. SFZ member Robbins stated that she is pleased that there are plans to move the Bairds tapir. Member of the Public, Deniz Bolbol, commented that she did not hear that the tapir was being moved soon and when Mr. Sulak refers to thousands of dollars what actual amount does that mean and what is the timeline for the modifications. She feels that there must be a construction company that would donate the time to bulldoze the concrete wall between the enclosure and the empty enclosure next to it. She also would like to know what facilities, not just AZA facilities, have been contacted regarding the Giant eland and which specific facilities that have elands said they do not want him. She also stated that the idea of denying access to the inside building to the rhino so that he can be on exhibit goes directly against what SFZ was stating it was trying to do to provide more choice. Mr. Sulak stated that the cost for the modifications is about \$100,000. A listing of the specific facilities contacted in regards to the Giant eland will be submitted at the next meeting. Regarding the rhino, it is a normal part of animal management to lock the animals outside during the day but SFZ is trying to come up with a happy medium for the animal's well being and trying to serve the public. Commissioner Bonilla stated that she was surprised at the estimates for the modifications were so high and that due to the current financial situation is it feasible to consider the modifications and is there any alternatives to be done in the interim. Mr. Sulak answered that it is a decision to prioritize projects and resources will be directed to raising funds for the designated projects. He also stated that assuming increasing the physical size of an exhibit means the animal will use that space is wrong, and there is more involved than bulldozing a wall and there are construction issues that have to be done to make the enclosure safe for the animal.

10. New Business/Future Agenda Items. (Information only)

Advisor Stephens commented that Mr. Jenkins attended a meeting of the Animal Welfare Committee and gave a report on the Master Plan and that she recommends more such meetings that will help foster communications.

- 11. 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, Deniz Bolbol, commented that if the attendance to these meetings is examined it is her opinion that the public does not feel this Committee is effective nor listens to public concerns and opinions. She again stated that the opinion to alter the wall between the enclosures for the tapir was voiced by others including the Zoo Director and that excuses are given as to why this cannot be done. She recommends that the members go out to the zoo and watch the tapir for an extended period to view its behavior. Advisor, Dr. Spinelli asked what Ms. Bolbol has observed when she watched the animal for three hours as stated. Ms. Bolbol stated that he moves back and forth between the water, lying down and sleeping. She then stated that she only spent that length of time once and usually spends approximately five minutes viewing the animal. Dr. Spinelli stated that he is not convinced that increasing the space would alter this behavior nor improve the quality of his life. Ms. Bolbol responded that she agrees it is not the solution but it is a step. She also stated that its mate had died but that statement was corrected by Mr. Sulak that this animal never had a mate although attempts had been made to acquire one.
- Commissioner Bonilla stated that she did not want to create a false impression regarding the animal transactions that when staff comes to this committee with recommendations, they are going to be "rubber stamped" but that at any given point if the majority of the committee members feel the recommendation made by staff requires additional consideration or may not be a good decision the Committee has the option to request that staff go back and reconsider the transaction. This is the option of the members, and while most recommendations are deemed positive they can be questioned. As well, when the recommendations are presented to the Recreation and Parks Commission they can be questioned and reconsidered.
- 12. Adjournment.**
Meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm.