

RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

June 28, 2012

San Francisco Zoo

5:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Larry Martin

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Paige Arata, Chair

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 May 24, 2012 Committee Meeting

2. San Francisco Zoo Administrative Report (Discussion)

Tanya Peterson, Executive Director & President, SFZS

Director Peterson reported May attendance was 81,750 visitors, which is over projection by 5,750. On Monday, June 25, SFZ hosted its 800,000 visitor this fiscal year, which was a significant milestone for the Zoo. Director Peterson congratulated staff, board members, docents and volunteers for their hard work during a difficult economic climate and the growing number of competitive alternatives for visitors' time and money. Another milestone was reached on the June Free Day with nearly 10,000 SF Residents visiting the Zoo. In total for the fiscal year, SFZ hosted 12 Free days for SF Residents; 43,223 SF Residents for Free; and 21,176 SF public school students for free. Director Peterson announced that the SFZS has created an annual animal wellness award in honor of long-term mentor and San Francisco State Professor, Dr. Hal Markowitz. Dr. Markowitz is world-renowned for his studies in animal behavior, and since the 1970s, he has mentored many of SFZ staff through their graduate studies as well as their work at the Zoo. He was specifically instrumental in changing the care of captive primates, and his techniques led to successful breeding and several generations of healthy primates here at the San Francisco Zoo. This year, Dr. Markowitz will be the honoree, and next year, the Society plans to grant the award to another person or program that emulates the doctor's dedication to animal enrichment and wellness. On another note, Peterson noted that the San Francisco Zoo's ZooMobile outreach program ended another successful season. She thanked volunteers Nancy Murphy and Allan Ridley for helping reach over 7,500 local students via the ZooMobile. Lastly, Peterson reported on upcoming events at the Zoo.

Committee Advisor Spinelli congratulated Director Peterson for recognizing Dr. Markowitz.

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 – June 2012

DONATION FROM:	ANIMAL SPECIES	PRICE	TOTAL DUE
Studio City Animal Hospital 11800 Ventura Boulevard	1.1 Virginia opossums <i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	NIL	N/A

Studio City, CA 91604
818/769-1338

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

ANIMAL UPDATES – MAY 2012						
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS	
		ACQUISITIONS				
2	1.0	Sumatran tiger	Loan In	Jackson Zoo		
20	0.0.1	Magellanic penguin	Birth	Born on Penguin Island		
20	0.6	Domestic chicken	Purchase	Thode Family Farm/Sebastopol		
24	1.2	European rabbit	Purchase	Half Moon Bay Feed & Fuel		
26	0.0.3	Magellanic penguin	Birth	Born on Penguin Island		
31	1.0	Bald eagle	Loan In	Memphis Zoo		
		DISPOSITION			Age at Death	
1	1.0	Nine-banded armadillo	Donation to		Elmwood Park Zoo	
3	0.1	Ostrich	Death	20Y, 10M, 2D	Cancer perianthitis	
7	0.0.2	California newt	Donation to		Turtle Bay Exploration Park	
11	0.1	Four-toed hedgehog	Death	4Y, 4M, 9D	Ovarian cancer	
12	1.0	Waldrapp ibis	Death	15Y, 0M, 5D	Spinal issue	
13	1.0	Black/White Ruffed lemur	Death	22Y, 0M, 9D	Pending	
14	1.0	Maguari stork	Donation to		Audubon Zoo	
16	0.1	Goat	Death	8Y, 11M, 15D	Cancer	
21	0.1	Sheep	Death	16Y, 11M, 15D	Arthritis	
22	0.0.1	Black-tailed prairie dog	Death	2Y, 2M, 21D	Broken Back	
24	0.1	Virginia opossum	Death	3Y, 1M, 21D	Cancer	
24	1.0	Giant waxy tree frog	Death	5Y, 2M	Pending	
26	0.1	Llama	Death	18Y, 10M, 24D	Pending	
30	1.0	Common peafowl	Death	Unknown	Euthanasia due to leg injury	
30	1.0	Superb starling	Donation to		Blank Park Zoo	

Committee Advisor Stephens stated that Animal Care and Control would possibly provide another resource for acquisition of chickens or rabbits. Member of Public, Mark Ennis asked what the sex was of the Sumatran tiger that died and regarding the male Sumatran tiger received would it be used for breeding. Mr. Bocian stated that SFZ had two female tigers and one died and yes, the remaining female and the male received have breeding approval.

5. San Francisco Zoo Veterinary Services Report. (Information only)
SFZ Hospital Staff, SFZS

SFZ Veterinarian Adrian Mutlow gave a presentation on medical training being done at the Zoo. The reason for such training is to avoid anesthetizing the animals when certain treatments are to be performed. Stress issues can be minimized in this manner. Various treatments were

shown including looking for metal discs thrown into the Sea lion exhibit and possible ingestion; trimming the horn on Indian rhinoceros; blood sample collection by tail in big cats; ultrasound pregnancy test of Snow leopard; ultrasound for heart issues and blood pressure monitoring in chimpanzees and gorillas. Member of Public, Mark Ennis asked the reason for the grinding of the horn is due to a portion growing into the skin and the flattening of the horn, is that also done by staff. Dr. Mutlow responded that the reason for the grinding is as Mr. Ennis stated and the flattening of the horn is done by the rhino himself. Member of Public, Tony Colonese, explained that this program began when SFZ had pandas in 1984 and one had GI distress and was losing weight. A scale was purchased and the animal trained to get on it.

6. **Announcements** (Information only)
None
7. **Chair's Announcements.** (Information only)
None
8. **Old Business.** (Discussion)
9. **New Business/Future Agenda Items.** (Information only)
Committee Advisor Stephens stated that a member of the public had contacted her regarding the bear grottos. With only two polar bears and the grizzly bears the suggestion was made to knock down the walls between two of the grottos to make a larger space. Stephens asked if there were any plans for the grottos. Peterson commented that there have been discussions along this line of combining the two end grottos. A structural engineer is looking at the feasibility as well as increasing the pool size in that area. Bocian commented that a transfer cage is being built which would allow moving the bears back and forth between the grottos.
10. **Public Comments:**
Member of the Public, Tony Colonese, spoke to the Bison Legacy Act which is a Bill before Congress (Senate Bill #3248) which wants to establish the Plains bison as the national mammal. The web page for information is VoteBison.org.
11. **Adjournment.**
Meeting was adjourned at 5:42p.m.