

RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

July 26, 2012

San Francisco Zoo

5:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

Note: A quorum of committee members was not present so the vote could not be taken on any action items. As noted below these items will be included on the agenda for action at the August 2012 meeting.

1. **Joint Zoo Committee Meeting Minutes (Action Item)** **ACTION: Tabled to 8/23/12**
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 on final fiscal year attendance. Ending June 30, 2012, year-end attendance was 816,163 visitors, compared to budget of 736,000 and prior year's attendance of 718,180. Membership revenues for the fiscal year exceeded \$2 million. In addition, over the fiscal year, the Zoo hosted 12 Free Days for San Francisco residents and provided 300 free field trips for SF public schools and over 600 free annual memberships for SFUSD teachers. With respect to the new fiscal year, the Zoo did not offer a Free Day on July 4th due to capacity concerns. Visitor attendance for July 1 through July 23 is 74,746 visitors versus budget of 84,700, generating an unfavorable variance of (9,954) visitors with (5,364) of that variance due to the cancellation of the July 4th Free Day. As a result of the cancellation, though, admissions revenue exceeded budget by \$11,369. Admissions revenue for the period is \$591,600 and over budget by \$10,600. On other news, San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee hosted a press conference announcing the beginning of a Master Plan for the City's Ocean Beach area. He acknowledged the challenges faced by the Zoo and its neighbors as they grapple with the reality of a disappearing Great Highway and oceanfront. The non-profit research firm, SPUR, has been funded to spearhead a Master Plan that could convert the problem into an opportunity. In animal news, a new male Bald Eagle has taken up residence at Eagle Island, across from Hearst Grizzly Gulch. He unfortunately lost his right wing in an accident and will live with other birds that no longer can fly. Committee Advisor Spinelli congratulated Director Peterson for recognizing Dr. Hal Markowitz and establishing an animal wellness award in his name.

3. **Animal Transactions.** (Action Item) **ACTION:Tabled to 8/23/12**
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 | 1.1 Virginia opossums | NIL | N/A |

11800 Ventura Boulevard *Didelphis virginiana*
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 | | | |
| 1 | 0.1 | Emperor tamarin | Birth | | |
| 1 | 1.0 | Emperor tamarin | Birth | | |
| 18 | 0.0.5 | California tiger salamanders | Donation | UC Davis | |
| 21 | 0.1 | Nine-banded armadillo | Donation | San Antonio Zoo | |
| 27 | 0.1 | Hamerkop | Donation | Oakland Zoo | |
| | | | | | |
| | | DISPOSITION | | Age at Death | |
| 1 | 0.0.1 | Mossy frog | Donation | | Steinhart Aquarium |
| 1 | 0.0.1 | Mossy frog | Donation | | Steinhart Aquarium |
| 2 | 0.1 | Emperor tamarin | Death | 0Y, 0M, 1D | Pending |
| 6 | 1.0 | Emperor tamarin | Death | 0Y, 0M, 5D | Pending |
| 6 | 1.1 | South African shelduck | Donation | | Jacksonville Zoo |
| 12 | 0.1 | Virginia opossum | Death | 2Y, 2M, 11D | Pending |

5. Capital Project Update. (Information only)
Tim Wu, VP of Capital Campaign, SFZS

Mr. Wu gave a presentation on the current status of the Americas Campaign, which includes the Koret-Taube South American Tropical Forest, the Elinor Friend Children’s Playground and The North American Gateway. Committee Advisor Spinelli asked about the North American exhibit, and Mr. Wu responded the exhibit will start at the bear grottos and include improvement of the polar bear exhibit. Spinelli inquired about the squirrel monkey exhibit, and Wu responded its construction roughly coincides with that of the South American Tropical Forest. Committee Advisor Stephens inquired about funding for the North American Gateway. Mr. Wu stated this phase is still in the design process, and fundraising just has begun. Member of Public, G. L. Hastings, asked for the cost estimates for the three phases. Mr. Wu responded that the estimated cost is approximately \$3million per phase. Mr. Hastings asked about the sites of the exhibits. Mr. Wu responded using a graphic.

6. Announcements (Information only)

Clerk announced that in order to coincide with the Recreation and Park Commission’s calendar, there will be a Joint Zoo meeting on Thursday, August 23rd, 2012, but there will be no meeting in November 2012 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

7. Chair’s Announcements. (Information only)
None

8. **Old Business.** (Discussion)
9. **New Business/Future Agenda Items.** (Information only)
10. **Public Comments:**
Member of the Public, G. L. Hastings, stated he was glad to hear about the children's component to the new exhibits. He also stated the Zoo's entry needs help and hopes someday SFZ will have an aquarium and reptile area as well as a new Lion House and elephant exhibit. Lastly, he feels the old Fleischhacker Bathhouse should be removed to provide more parking spaces.
11. **Adjournment.**
Meeting was adjourned at 5:27p.m.