

**RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT**

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

July 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, Paige Arata

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Larry Martin

Committee Advisor, Joseph Spinelli

Committee Advisor, Sally Stephens

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

Adoption of Minutes of the June 23, 2011 Committee Meeting

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

Tanya Peterson, Executive Director & President, SFZS

Director Peterson reported attendance in July is ahead of projections. As of July 27 total attendance is 95,023 versus projection of 89,500. Teddy Bear Festival held July 23/24 brought 11,000 visitors to the Zoo. Siberian tiger, Martha has been on display since the end of June. SFZ recently launched Guide by Cell Audio Tour program. This free self-guided tour can be accessed from any cell phone. Signs are posted at various exhibit locations that offer a recording of staff members talking about the animals, exhibits and more. There also exists an option for guests to support the zoo by making a \$10.00 donation via text. Current locations are Carousel, Children's Zoo, Emperor Tamarins, Giraffes, Greenie's Conservation Corner, Grizzlies, Gorillas, Insect Zoo, Kangaroos, Koalas, Koala Plantation Area, Lemurs, Lions, Little Puffer, Otters, Penguins, Polar Bears and Savanna Overlook. She thanked zoo employee Lamar Harris and the Marketing group for organizing this program. Committee Advisor Stephens asked how tiger Martha was adjusting to her new environment. Director Peterson stated that she is doing quite well and is very popular to visitors.

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

David Bocian, VP of Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS

**SAN FRANCISCO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS**

**ANIMAL TRANSACTION RATIFICATION - July 2011**

**DONATION FROM:**

CA Domestic Ferret Association  
1200 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
415/554-9415

0.2 European ferret  
Mustela putorius furo

**PRICE    TOTAL DUE**  
NIL            N/A

Ca Foundation for Birds of Prey  
3985 Foothill Blvd.  
Roseville, CA 95747  
916/645-3708

0.0.1 American kestrel

NIL            N/A

Committee Advisor Stephens commented on the fact that last month the Zoo also received a ferret from Animal Care and Control and questioned if this is unusual to have more. Bocian responded that these

animals are used frequently in the education programs and having more than one allows rotation thus reducing stress on any one animal.

**4. Animal Updates.**

(Discussion)

David Bocian, VP Animal Care & Enrichment, SFZS

ANIMAL UPDATES – JUNE 2011					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
<b>ACQUISITIONS</b>					
7	0.1	Brown-nosed coati	Donation		Central Florida Zoological Park
7	0.1	Brown-nosed coati	Donation		Central Florida Zoological Park
16	0.0.1	MadagascarHedgehog tenrec	Donation		National Zoological Park
<b>DISPOSITION</b>					
				<b>Age at Death</b>	
1	0.0.1	Magellanic penguin	Death	0Y 0M 13D	Dehydration
2	1.0	Red-capped cardinal	Donation		Atascadero Zoo
3	0.1	Hooded merganser	Death		CZ tangled in fence
15	1.0	American white pelican	Death	-44Y	Lost
15	0.1	Snow leopard	Death	19Y 0M 26D	Euthanized
15	1.0	Warthog	Death	16Y 3M 17D	Died in sleep
17	0.1	Guinea pig	Death	6Y 5M 14D	Liver cancer
21	1.0	Chilean flamingo	Death	20Y 1M 16D	Anemic
23	0.1	Hadada ibis	Death	22Y 4M 12D	Aparatinitis
24	0.1	White-faced whistling duck	Disappeared		Disappeared overnight from Puente el Sur
29	1.0	Pacific pond turtle	Donation		Sacramento Zoo
29	1.0	Pacific pond turtle	Donation		Sacramento Zoo

Committee Advisor Spinelli questioned the penguin population asking how many survived. Bocian responded that there were 11 hatches and 5 survived. The five surviving birds have been up at the Avian Center and are scheduled to go to the island this coming Saturday to live in the colony. More penguins are going to be obtained from Monterey Bay Aquarium later this year and some are being shipped out to Long Beach. These birds will contribute fresh blood and this presents expectations that all the birds will receive breeding recommendations which should assure more breeding next season. Director Peterson asked Mr. Bocian to explain the adjustment in policy. The policy is reviewed yearly and at this time is to allow the parents to parent and not pull the chicks early. While this policy may contribute to a lower survival rate it is hoped that it will teach parenting skills to the future adult population. Member of Public, Mark Ennis, asked what the animal was found tangled in the fence. Mr. Bocian responded that the merganser is a breed of duck.

**5. Capital Campaign Update**

(Information only)

Tim Wu, VP of Capital Campaign, SFZS

Mr. Wu presented an overview of the Americas Campaign, Squirrel Monkey Habitat and the South American Tropical Aviary. The Americas Campaign has a fundraising goal of \$10million over three years. The key purposes are to provide state-of-the-art habitats for current and new animals; improve capacity for wildlife conservation and care messaging; improve visitor educational and animal experience at the Zoo and to create infrastructure for future animal habitat improvements. The Squirrel Monkey Habitat is currently being prepared for construction with a projected Summer/Fall 2012 completion. The colony is all male “rescue” squirrel monkeys with the habitat designed to accommodate this complex social structure. Both the public and private enclosure areas focus on “animal-first” being designed on Squirrel Monkey needs. This is the first phase of the South American Tropical Aviary with design incorporating early childhood-focused conservation messaging. The first

phase of the Americas Campaign included the South American Tropical Rain Forest including the Squirrel Monkey habitat. It has a projected 18-month completion schedule at a \$3-4million cost. Thematically the exhibit focuses on visitor immersion in a rain forest environment. As always the animal needs come first in design with consultation with other zoos. There will be a strong emphasis on rain forest conservation/preservation messages including animal poaching, illegal pet trade and deforestation. Major funding will be secured from diverse sources and the design incorporates live/multi-media education platforms. The next two steps in the project are the North American Gateway and Children's Education/Play Zone with thematic integration of all phases to animal conservation and care.

Committee Advisor Spinelli asked how construction on the Aviary will be conducted as it is now open. Mr. Wu responded that the plan is to close the building at the end of this calendar year with a target reopening in 18 months of that. Spinelli also asked if there is a plan to bring in female Squirrel monkeys for breeding. Mr. Bocian responded that not at this time but that it may be a consideration in the future. Spinelli also questioned what would be happening with the bears and the lions with the new exhibit plan. Mr. Wu answered that the bears would be adjacent to the area of the new habitat and plans are under discussion. Director Peterson stated that the future plans for the lion house as well as other WPA buildings in the Zoo are under consideration. Member of Public, Mark Ennis voiced his opinion that it might be feasible to open up the existing bear grotto areas to allow more space for the grizzlies. Discussion followed on the possible use of the grottos. Member of Public Deniz Bolbol stated that she hoped in the messaging on conservation issue that references would be made to not purchasing certain products that are the result of deforestation thus bringing the message to the local population. She also voiced her concern on the acoustic level in the Aviary and hopes that consideration will be given in the construction as to the effect on the animals as well as her opinion that birds for such exhibits should not be purchased from breeders as there are many free flight birds available.

7. **Announcements** (Information only)
8. **Chair's Announcements.** (Information only)  
Chairman Alvarez reminded that there is no meeting of the Committee held in August. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 22.
9. **Old Business.** (Discussion)
10. **New Business/Future Agenda Items.** (Information only)
11. **Public Comments:**  
Member of Public Tony Colonese commented on the Bison paddock in Golden Gate Park and urged improving the exhibit and acquiring as pure bred bison as possible. Committee Advisor Spinelli questioned if SFZ provides the veterinary care of the bison and how their health is. Dr. Crawford reported that SFZ does provide care and TB was present in the old herd but the current herd is healthy with no disease present. Member of Public, Deniz Bolbol questioned why the bison were not included in the report presented by Mr. Bocian with the response given that these animals are presented in the report given by the Recreation & Parks Commission as they are their animals.
12. **Adjournment.**  
Meeting was adjourned at 5:45p.m.