

RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Joint Zoo Committee Meeting

August 23, 2012

San Francisco Zoo

5:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Paige Arata, Chair

Recreation and Park Commissioner, Larry Martin

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

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

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 June 28 and July 26, 2012 Committee Meetings

2. San Francisco Zoo Administrative Report (Discussion)

Tanya Peterson, Executive Director & President, SFZS

Director Peterson reported July attendance was 100,895 visitors versus projections of 111,000.

The primary miss was the cancellation of Free Day, which would have fallen on July 4th this year.

Nevertheless, admission revenue for the month of July exceeded budget with a close of \$782,000

versus projections of \$774,000. Attendance for August 1st through August 22nd is 70,829 versus

the budget of 71,100, generating an unfavorable variance of (271) visitors. Actual admission

revenue for August is over budget by \$16,901. Year-to-date revenue is \$1,290,050 which is over

budget by \$24,337. In animal news, changes are occurring in the indoor rooms for the lions and

tigers in the Lion House. A couple of dividers will be removed making two separate super rooms

with the addition of new benches. These new benches will provide more options for the Big Cats

to rest. In other news, the Zoo's youth volunteers had the unique opportunity to view Lake

Merced from a different perspective. Thanks to an opportunity provided by San Francisco State

University and the Department of Recreation and Parks, sixty youth and supervising staff

kayaked around the lake viewing birds, searching for turtles and participating in team building

games. Community outreach and participation is part of SFZ ongoing activities. In related news,

the Koret Animal Resource Center recently participated in the 9th annual Bayview Hunter's Point

Back to School Celebration Backpack Giveaway. The event was hosted at the Joseph Lee

Recreation Center and is sponsored by BMagic and the SF Public Defender's Office. The

festival-like experience provides a fun way for youth to learn about academic support systems

and resources as well as providing school supplies to hundreds of local youth in order to support

and encourage students to stay in school. The San Francisco Zoo has participated in this event

since its inception and is honored to continue to be part of the celebration.

On the development front, Jose Ortega Elementary School (JOES), in San Francisco's Ingleside

District, is home to 325 Joyful Learners ranging from Kindergarten through 5th Grade. The

JOES staff is committed to creating and sustaining a caring community. As part of this year's

Earth Day education, JOES students worked together to collect their spare change to donate to an

organization within the community. Their efforts totaled \$600! The students of JOES decided to

adopt six animals through the San Francisco Zoo's Adopt-an-Animal program. Each classroom

voted for their favorite animals to help decide which animals would be adopted. The JOES

students are very excited about the project, and look forward to taking field trips to visit their

adopted animals in the coming school year. Events play a major role in drawing the public to the Zoo. The Zoo recently hosted its first Silent Disco that saw over 600 people come out in attendance for this afterhours event which opened up the Zoo to a whole new demographic. Guests were able to listen to two different types of DJs on their headphones as they partied the night away. This new and exciting endeavor was made possible by a collaboration of departments and a Zoo-wide effort spearheaded by special events manager, Deb Howe. And this Labor Day Weekend, Barnyard Hoedown will happen from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visitors can hear live country music, brave the kid-friendly mechanical bull and see SFZ barnyard animals in the Children's Zoo Family Farm. For more information, visit our website at www.sfzoo.org.

Lastly, Director Peterson wanted to acknowledge and thank San Francisco Zoological Board member and volunteer, Bill Beech on his tenth year of service to the San Francisco Zoo. He was awarded with a ten year service pin to commemorate this milestone. Also, Peterson expressed a thank you to Bill and his wife for hosting a Wellness Initiative reception for guests and donors.

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 – July 2012**

DONATION TO:	ANIMAL SPECIES	PRICE	TOTAL DUE
Dallas Zoo 1513 Cambridge Street 650 S.R.L. Thorton Fwy. Dallas, TX 75203 469.544.7240	Western African crowned crane <i>Balearica payonina pavonina</i>	N/A	N/A
Sedgwick County Zoo 5555 W. Zoo Boulevard Wichita, KS 67212-1698 316.660.9453	Giant anteater <i>Myrmecophaga tridactyla</i>	N/A	N/A

**SAN FRANCISCO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS
ANIMAL TRANSACTION RATIFICATION – August 2012**

DONATION FROM:	ANIMAL SPECIES	PRICE	TOTAL DUE
Rebecca Spencer 5 Echo Avenue Corte Madera, CA 94925 415/515-6626	0.01 Chestnut-fronted macaw <i>Ara severus</i>	N/A	NIL
PURCHASE FROM: Denver Zoo 2900 East 23 rd Ave. Denver, CO 80205 303/376-4914	1.0 Kookaburra <i>Dacelo novaguineae</i>	\$300	\$300

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

ANIMAL UPDATES – JULY 2012					
DATE	SEX	ANIMALS	TRANSACTION		COMMENTS
		ACQUISITIONS			
1	0.1	Western screech owl	Donation	California Foundation of Birds of Prey	
1	0.0.1	Marbled teal	Birth	Bird Short String	
		DISPOSITION		Age at Death	
4	0.1	Domestic guinea pig	Death	2Y, 1M, 18D	Lymphoma
7	1.0	Emperor tamarin	Death	16Y, 9M, 10D	Heart/kidney failure
7	0.0.1	Pacific tree frog	Death	-4Y	Body disintegrated
10	0.1	Mouse	Death	-3Y	Cancer
15	0.1	Black howler	Death	22Y, 8M, 16D	Leukemia
18	1.0	North American Ruddy Duck	Disappeared	18Y, 1M, 5D	
25	1.0	Slender-tailed meerkat	Death	11Y, 1M, 22D	Kidney failure
25	1.0	Blue-crowned motmot	Death	13Y, 8M, 27D	Hepatitis

5. Western Pond Turtle Project (Information only)

Jessie Bushell, Assistant Curator of CZ& ARC, SFZS

Ms. Bushell gave a presentation on the Western Pond Turtle conservation collaborative captive head starting program. This program which has been ongoing for the last several years in collaboration with Sonoma State College and the Oakland Zoo collects the eggs, raises them at the zoo and after a year returns them back into their natal pond.

6. Announcements (Information only)

Bill Beech expressed his thanks for the acknowledgment of his Zoo activities and stated it is his pleasure to be of service.

7. Chair's Announcements. (Information only)

None

8. Old Business. (Discussion)

None

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

10. Public Comments:

Member of Public, Richard Rothman, spoke on the desire for restoration of the Mother's Building and preservation of the murals in the building. He has worked on the restoration of Coit Tower and offered to assist in any way he can to save the Mother's Building. Committee Advisor Spinelli stated that the murals are wonderful and he hopes they can be restored.

11. Adjournment.

Meeting was adjourned in honor of Bill Beech at 5:42 p.m.