



General Meeting of the Board of Directors
Fresno Chaffee Zoo Education Building
Thursday, June 09, 2011 5:31pm

Table with 4 columns: Board Members Present, Board Members Absent, Public Present, Staff Present. Lists names of attendees and absentees.

Meeting called to order at 5:31 p.m. Roll call; Directors Dougherty, Levy, Manning-Cartwright, Nelson, Nokes, Richards, Rainwater, Templeton, and Valentino present. Directors Fischer and Saladino were absent.

Discuss and consider minutes: Director Templeton made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Director Rainwater seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Chair Report: None offered.

CEO Report: CEO Barton stated the Environmental Impact Report closed on June 6th. The City and the Zoo are working closely to have the Master Plan and EIR before the City Council by the end of June. CEO Barton stated the hope was to have the Sea Lion Cove project started this summer. CEO Barton stated the April and May zoo attendance were tracking 8% ahead of the 2010 attendance. CEO Barton stated Director of Animal Care, Andy Snider was in Armenia working on the Armenia Viper project. Fresno Chaffee Zoo is partnered with St. Louis Zoo on this program. CEO Barton stated recent births at the zoo included red-ruffed lemurs and black-footed cat. The black-footed cat, a small African species, is significant because the zoo has been trying to breed them for a couple of years following an AZA breeding recommendation. CEO Barton stated we will be shipping out our current male tapir and receiving another male tapir in hope of being able to breed our pair. CEO Barton stated Zoobilation the zoos membership event was another great success, even with the rain. The zoo also had another successful Dreamnight event. This special event opens the zoo exclusively for special needs and critically ill children and their families for an evening. This is one of the ways the zoo can give back to the community. CEO Barton stated the next projects at the zoo will be Sea Lion Cove with the approval of the City Council vote could mean opening in the fall of 2012. CEO Barton stated Marc Benjamin, of the Fresno Bee walked the grounds with CEO Barton and discussed zoo animal nutrition for a future article. CEO Barton stated the California Classic half marathon run came through the zoo. The marathon was a sold out event and a great success for the zoo and the marathon folks.

Committee Reports: Director Rainwater stated Alfreda Sebasto who is working with the zoo on development projects are working on ideas for fundraising. Director Dougherty asked the finance committee to review a property proposal and report back to the board next month.

Review of the Financial Report: CEO Barton reviewed the financial report with the board. CEO Barton stated the zoo was in a great position of under spending in expenses and revenues were up.



**Public Comment.** This time is set-aside for the public to comment on any item within the jurisdiction of the Board, but not appearing on the agenda. Items presented under public comment may not be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public is invited to comment at the time the item is called for consideration by the Board. Any person addressing the Board under public comment will be limited to a 3-minute presentation to insure that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak.

**Please state your name and address for the record:** *Director Dougherty called for any public comment.*

Joan LeRoux stated in August of 2009 the Fresno Bee stated the Sea Lion Cove project would cost 7.5 million and 6 months later the Bee stated it would 10.5 million a 40% increase. Ms. LeRoux provided the board with a letter regarding the bidding policy/process for consideration. Ms. LeRoux would like copies of the construction documents for Sea Lion Cove to review the 40% increase.

Adrienne Castro, Director of Education commented on the how great the zoo grounds look and how much the visitors enjoy the keeper talks and the docent activities. MS Castro feels this is part of the reason attendance is up.

**Board questions and comments:** Director Nokes asked about the tiger breeding. Assistant Curator, Lyn Myers stated in 2 years there has not been a successful tiger breeding. Ms. Myers stated the Association of Zoos and Aquariums; Species Survival Plan has been contacted to possibly bring in a different male. Director Nelson asked if the Children's Play was part of the Sea Lion Cove project. CEO Barton stated the Children's Play Area would be at a different location within the zoo foot print. Director Templeton commented how great it was to see memberships over 11,000. Director Manning-Cartwright stated her son who has special needs attended the Zoo Camp at Fresno Chaffee Zoo. This was the only camp that provided for those special needs. Director Manning-Cartwright complimented Director of Education, Adrienne Castro for the great work her staff and department does for children with special needs. Director Dougherty stated Director of Marketing, Terri Mejorado does a great job of keeping the zoo in the media. Director Valentino asked about the concessions revenue. CEO Barton stated that the contract has changed and overall both concessions and retail are doing well. CEO Barton stated he hoped the numbers would be up by the end of the year. Director Dougherty noted the next events at the zoo would be Cool Zoo on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and Ice Cream Zoofari on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Director Levy would like Andy Snider, Director of Animal Care to give a presentation of his trip to Armenia.

**Adjournment:** Director Dougherty called for a motion to adjourn. Director Rainwater so moved Director Templeton seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Adjournment at 6:05 pm.

**Respectfully submitted by:** Lisa Condoian, Assistant Board Secretary  
Fresno Chaffee Zoo Corporation