



**San Francisco Zoological Society
("SFZS")**

Meeting of the Board of Directors

September 20, 2022

Osher Great Hall, Lurie Education Center

San Francisco Zoo & Gardens

And via Zoom teleconference

Attendees:

Board: Maria Alvarez, Rosemary Baker, Esq., Tim Bailey, Veronica Bell, Brad Canfield, Mike Dovey, Melinda Eisenhut-Dunn, John Flynn, Janie Friend, Sarah Gammill, Margaret Hauben Ph.D., Julia Heidmann, Michael Kahn, Toni Krajcar, Donna Kampschuur, Alexis Krivkovich, Nicole Lamps, Doug Magowan, Kelly McCarthy, Liz Minick, Steve Morris, Joan Murphy, Ed Poole, Esq., Sarah Schoellkopf, Ph.D., Mary Sutton and Charley Zeches.

Emeriti: Gail Secchia.

Officers: Ed Poole, Esq., Vince Grubbs, and Tanya Peterson, Esq.

Guest: Dexter Lowry.

Staff: Tanya Peterson, Esq., Vince Grubbs, Chris Connors, Vitus Leung and Tim Wu, Esq.

Roll Call and Approval of Minutes

SFZS Board Chair Ed Poole, Esq. called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. Roll was taken, and it was determined that a quorum was present. The minutes of the May 24, 2022 SFZS Board Meeting were approved as written. **MSA**

Chair's Report:

Board Chair Poole welcomed all to the first SFZS Board meeting of the fiscal year, thanked all for participating in annual giving and announced 100% Board participation. He recommended a book about the Baghdad Zoo called, "Babylon's Ark", and drew some parallels between running a zoo in a war zone and during a pandemic. Lastly, he asked for approval to revise the by-laws to the following:

REVISED SECTION 3.8

3.8 Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors shall from time to time specify the date for the annual meeting for members. The annual meeting shall be for the purpose of transaction such business as may properly be brought before the meeting.

The revision was approved. **MSA**

CEO's Report:

CEO Tanya Peterson provided an update on industry trends as discussed at the recent Association of Zoos & Aquariums' (AZA) annual conference. She discussed the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on zoo and aquarium attendance nationwide, as well as locally. Peterson noted that post-pandemic attendance had rebounded until Summer 2022, during which 75% of zoos and aquariums nationwide experienced a decline in attendance, which could possibly be attributed to inflation or a rise in gas prices. She reported on Bay Area market trends and visitor experience at SF Zoo. Additionally, she discussed the Great Highway closures and local construction projects in SF Zoo's immediate vicinity and their impact on attendance, and noted that it may be necessary to create an alternate entrance. Other trends discussed at the AZA conference included Diversity, Equality, Accessibility and Inclusion (DEAI) initiatives, animal conservation efforts, changing fundraising models, and collective action on animal well-being and wellness programs. Lastly, she announced the recent Jefferson Award presented to longtime SF Zoo volunteer and Emeritus Member, Gail Secchia, for her incredible volunteer contributions over the years and dedication to SF Zoo's Gardens. (PPT & Video)

Construction & Exhibit Updates:

Executive Vice President of Operations Chris Connors provided a presentation on recent construction projects and exhibit updates taking place at SF Zoo. He reported on exhibit expansions at the Asian rhino, Komodo dragon and Big Cat Grottoes. He noted that the former Nile hippo exhibit had been modified to accommodate a pygmy hippo and discussed additional conservation breeding spaces created at the Wellness & Conservation Center. He reported on the refurbishment done at the Eugene Friend Dentzel Carousel and the Little Puffer train barn expansion to accommodate second train, "Cobby". He announced that Phase One of the Lipman Family Madagascar Center was finished, with a completed fossa exhibit and fabricated baobab tree with interior exhibit space for invertebrates. He reported that the Andean condor project at the former sea lion pool was moving forward, and lastly he discussed the impact of the Great Highway closures on SF Zoo and how that might affect the Master Plan. (PPT)

Committee Updates:

- Discussion followed regarding potential dates for the FurBall and ZooFest fundraisers. The Development Committee will meet to finalize dates.
- The Finance and Investment Committees will be merged into one committee moving forward. Chair Poole noted that the Executive Committee had authorized a change in investment managers.
- The Governance Committee will be reviewing committee structures.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:01 pm.