



FRESNO COUNTY ZOO AUTHORITY

9:00 AM, Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Fresno County Employees' Retirement Association

1111 H Street, Fresno, CA 93721

(559) 457-0681

ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES

1. Call to Order

CHAIRMAN PETER HERZOG CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 9:04 AM. A QUORUM WAS PRESENT OF ALL MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN, GERALD LYLES, MICHELLE ROMAN, KENT STRATFORD, ASHLEY SWEARENGIN, PAUL TOSTE, AND RALPH WATERHOUSE.

2. Public Comments

This time is made available to receive comments from the public on matters within the Board's jurisdiction that are not on the Agenda. Attention is called to the fact that the Board is prohibited from taking any action on matters that are not on the Agenda. Members of the public are limited to three minutes to speak during Public Comments as well as for each item on the agenda. In order to accurately record the minutes, members of the public are asked to speak only from the podium. Before beginning comments, please state for the record your name and affiliation, if any.

HELD; NONE OFFERED

0:0:26

3. Consent Agenda

These matters are routine in nature and are usually approved by a single vote. Prior to action by the Board, the public will be given the opportunity to remove any item from the Consent Calendar. Items removed from the Consent Calendar may be heard immediately following approval of the Consent Calendar.

- a. Review and approve minutes of September 30, 2015
- b. Review and approve payment of County of Fresno invoice for Professional and Specialized Services in the amount of \$31,269.01 for September and October 2015
- c. Receive Treasurer's Reports for September and October 2015

PT/AS; APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

0:1:06 CHAIRMAN HERZOG STATED THAT AT THE REQUEST OF THE MAYOR, ITEM 7 WOULD BE HEARD AT THIS TIME.

0:12:12

4. Receive Fresno County Zoo Authority 2014-15 audited financial statements and independent auditor's report from Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corporation

RECEIVED – MS MIKELLE AZEVEDO OF BROWN ARMSTRONG ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION PRESENTED THE AUDIT. SHE STATED THAT A CLEAN, UNMODIFIED OPINION WAS ISSUED AND THERE WERE NO INTERNAL CONTROL ISSUES.

15:41 FOLLOWING ITEM 4, ITEM 9 WAS HEARD.

0:24:42

5. Receive Fresno Chaffee Zoo Director's report
RECEIVED -- DIRECTOR SCOTT BARTON REPORTED THAT THROUGH YESTERDAY, COMPARED TO THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, ATTENDANCE HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED, DUE TO THE OPENING OF AFRICAN ADVENTURE. UNSOLICITED COMMENTS HAVE INCLUDED, "THIS IS HOW TAX MONEY SHOULD BE SPENT."

A THOROUGH AZA ACCREDITATION VISIT OCCURRED IN NOVEMBER AND RESULTED IN A LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS TO WORK ON, BUT NOTHING OVERLY CONCERNING. THE ZOO WILL REPORT BACK TO THE AZA IN MARCH.

20 NIGHTS OF ZOO LIGHTS ATTENDANCE IS STRONG, AND ABOUT THE SAME AS LAST YEAR.

IN THE NEXT 3 TO 6 MONTHS MR. BARTON EXPECTS TO BRING REQUESTS FOR FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL EXHIBITS, SPECIFICALLY MALAYAN TIGER EXPANSION INCLUDING SLOTH BEARS, BEGIN DESIGN OF AFRICAN RIVER FOR HIPPOS AND CROCODILES, AND SMALL ENHANCEMENTS TO DINO DIG. PLANS ARE WELL ALONG IN WARTHOG EXHIBIT DESIGN AND WATER PLAY AREA WITH EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT. ANIMAL SUPPORT BUILDING PROJECTS INCLUDE ANIMAL PROGRAMS BUILDING, ANIMAL NUTRITION CENTER, LARGER FREEZER, AZA BIRD HOLDING AREA, STORAGE AND STAFF AREA; AREA, ALL IN THE (FORMER DELNO STREET) SERVICE AREA. TEMPORARY OVERFLOW PARKING NOW ADDS 200 SPACES OR THE EQUIVALENT OF ABOUT 1000-1200 VISITORS PER DAY.

CHAIRMAN HERZOG ASKED AND MR. BARTON REPORTED THAT AZA ACCREDITATION OCCURRED EVERY 5 YEARS. EXAMPLES OF FINDINGS INCLUDED A LACK OF A BIRD HOLDING FACILITY, UPDATING OF AN INSTITUTIONAL COLLECTIONS PLAN, ELEPHANT TRAINING, AND ASPHALT REPAIRS. PRAISES INCLUDED NEW EXHIBITS, TEAM SUPPORT FOR ONE ANOTHER, RECOGNITION OF POSITIVE FINANCIAL SITUATION DUE TO MEASURE Z, AND RECORD ATTENDANCE, WHICH EXCEEDED LAST YEAR'S RECORD BY 100,000.

MEMBER LYLES ASKED FOR AN UPDATED MASTER PLAN FOR THE ENTIRE ZOO. MR. BARTON STATED THAT HE WILL PREPARE REPORT ON IT IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS THAT WILL SHOW PLANS FOR THE NEXT 5 TO 8 YEARS, AND THAT THE CURRENT EXHIBITS FOLLOW THE 2006 PLAN.

0:36:30

6. Receive Fresno Chaffee Zoo Corporation Chief Financial Officer's reports for September and October 2015

RECEIVED -- CFO BRIAN GOLDMAN REPORTED THAT AT AS OF YESTERDAY, ATTENDANCE HAD EXCEEDED LAST YEAR BY 100,000 AND SHOULD EXCEED 800,000 BY YEAR END. THE OPENING OF AFRICAN ADVENTURE HAD A LARGE IMPACT ON YEAR-TO-DATE REVENUE. FOR EXAMPLE, IN OCTOBER 2015 CONCESSIONS AND GIFT SHOP SHOWED UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH OF 26% AND 16%, RESPECTIVELY. ZOO BOO HAD RECORD ATTENDANCE ALSO. THROUGH NOVEMBER, YEAR-TO-DATE REVENUE INCREASES FOR ADMISSIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS WERE 10.5% AND 19%, RESPECTIVELY. PERSONNEL AND OPERATING EXPENSES ARE UNDER BUDGET. MEMBER LYLES COMMENTED THAT THE LARGE INCREASE IN CONCESSION REVENUE COMPARED TO ADMISSIONS SPOKE WELL OF THE QUALITY OF FOOD SERVED. MR. GOLDMAN ADDED THAT THE PEACEFUL VIEW FROM THE LODGE ATTRACTED VISITORS JUST FOR THE DINING EXPERIENCE AND IT'S ALWAYS BUSY. MEMBER ROMAN CONCURRED.

0:1:20

7. Conduct second reading of Zoo Authority Bylaws, incorporating Board of Supervisors recommendations, and
 - a. Approve Bylaws and waive reading in their entirety
 - b. Approve letter of response to the Board of Supervisors

BOARD COORDINATOR CROSBY REVIEWED BYLAWS. AFTER CLARIFICATION FROM COUNSEL SMITH, A VOTE WAS TAKEN. AS/GL; APPROVED 6-1, MEMBER TOSTE OPPOSED.

0:8:15

8. Adopt Annual Conflict of Interest Affidavit proposed by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, as corrected by Counsel for Zoo Authority Board.

COUNSEL SMITH NOTED THAT THE CORRECT LANGUAGE FOR THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THE AFFIDAVIT WAS FOUND IN AGENDA ITEM 7, ATTACHMENT A, AND MEMBERS COULD APPROVE THE PROPOSED AFFIDAVIT WITH THE LANGUAGE AS NOTED THERE. AS/RW--APPROVED 6-1, MEMBER TOSTE OPPOSED.

0:12:12 FOLLOWING ITEM 8, TREASURER BLANKS ASKED THAT ITEM 4 BE HEARD.

0:15:46

9. Receive and approve Final Draft of 2014-15 annual report and provide direction to staff
- RECEIVED -- COORDINATOR CROSBY PRESENTED THE FINAL DRAFT AND MEMBERS COMMENTED POSITIVELY ON ITS APPEARANCE AND CONTENT.**

MEMBER ROMAN COMMENTED ON THE SUCCESSES AT THE ZOO AS A RESULT OF MEASURE Z.

MEMBER SWEARENGIN POINTED OUT THAT THE ZOOCORP HAS A MUCH BETTER OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS ARM THAN THE ZOO AUTHORITY AND ENCOURAGED THE ZOOCORP TO SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE SUCCESSES; FURTHER STATING THAT THIS IS A NATIONAL SUCCESS STORY IN WHICH SHE WAS PROUD TO HAVE PLAYED A SMALL PART.

MEMBER WATERHOUSE COMPLEMENTED THE REPORT AND ASKED MR. BARTON HOW MANY COPIES HE MIGHT NEED. MR. BARTON SAID THEY CAN EASILY PUT A LINK ON THE ZOO'S WEB SITE.

MEMBER SWEARENGIN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORT, PRINT 75 COPIES AND INCREASE PRINTING AS REQUESTED BY KEY STAKEHOLDERS SUCH AS THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, OTHER COMMUNITIES IN FRESNO COUNTY, OR THE ZOOCORP. IT WAS SECONDED BY CHAIRMAN HERZOG AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

**0:24:26 MEMBER SWEARENGIN LEAVES THE MEETING.
THE CHAIRMAN STATED ITEM 5 WILL BE HEARD NEXT.**

0:43:27

10. Receive staff reports

RECEIVED -- BOARD COORDINATOR CROSBY BRIEFLY REPORTED ON PROGRESS ON AN UPDATE TO THE ZOO AUTHORITY WEBSITE.

0:45:00

11. Board meetings

- a. Confirm or cancel next meeting date of December 30, 2015
- b. Adopt 2016 meeting calendar, and set first meeting date of 2016
Dates include; Wednesday, January 27, 2016
 Wednesday February 24, 2016
 Wednesday, March 30, 2016

AFTER DISCUSSION, MEMBER TOSTE MADE A MOTION TO CANCEL THE DECEMBER 30, 2015 MEETING AND ADOPT THE 2016 MEETING CALENDAR, EXCLUDING JANUARY 27, 2016. SECONDED BY MEMBER LYLES, THE VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.

0:48:40

12. Chair's comments

RECEIVED -- THE CHAIRMAN STATED HE WAS PROUD AS A CITIZEN OF THIS COMMUNITY OF THE NEW AFRICAN ADVENTURE EXHIBIT. HE PRAISED "THE PLANNING AND EFFORT TO EXECUTE AND COMPLETE ON TIME A PROJECT OF THIS SCALE."

0:49:26

13. Board Member comments

RECEIVED -- MEMBER WATERHOUSE COMPLEMENTED DIRECTOR BARTON AND STAFF FOR THE MEMORIAL SERVICE LAST NIGHT FOR LONG-TIME ZOO SOCIETY AND ZOO CORP EMPLOYEE CHRISTY HARVEY, WHOM HE PRAISED FOR HER INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY, SUPPORT OF THE ZOO AND EXCEPTIONAL KINDNESS. REGARDING THE OPENING OF THE AFRICAN EXHIBIT, HE COMMENTED THAT FORMER ZOO COLLEAGUES FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY WERE GREATLY IMPRESSED, AND THAT WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED FAR EXCEEDED THE FIRST PLANS AND HIS GRAND VISION FOR EXPANSION DURING HIS YEARS THERE.

0:51:30

14. Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIRMAN HERZOG ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 9:55 AM

All supporting documentation is available for public review in the office of the Fresno County Zoo Authority, 2220 Tulare Street, 6th Floor, Fresno, 93721, during regular business hours.

For further information, please contact Catherine Crosby, Zoo Authority Coordinator, at 600-4305, email zooauthority@co.fresno.ca.us, or visit www.zooauthority.org. Requests for disability-related modification or accommodation needed in order to participate in the meeting must be made to the Zoo Authority Coordinator no later than 9:00 a.m. on the day prior to the meeting.