



Handouts and Presentations For June 25, 2014

1. For Public Comment – Letter from Richard Harriman to Fresno County Board of Supervisors
2. For Item 3b Treasurer's report for May 2014: page 4, corrected
3. For Item 5 PowerPoint slides
4. Today's 10:30 am Special Meeting Agenda
(For Item 3, please refer to Regular Agenda Item 7 and attachments.)
5. Recent ZooCorp meeting minutes
6. Recent news articles

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June 16, 2014

VIA EMAIL AND HAND DELIVERY
[clerk/bos@co.fresno.ca.us]

Honorable Andreas Borges
Chairman
Fresno County Board of Supervisors
2281 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Re: Friends of Roeding Park and Lisa Y. Flores
Board of Supervisors Continued Hearing on June 17, 2014
Request to Remove Agenda Item No. 5
Approval of Measure Z Sales Tax Ten-Year Extension
Supplemental Objections and Comments

Dear Chairman Borgeas and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Since it is unclear whether your Board will permit additional oral testimony or comment on Agenda Item No. 5, I am submitting the following objections and comments to the Clerk for inclusion in the record of proceedings.

- 1.) Since there is no supplemental Staff Report or additional documentation included in the Board packet for this Item, my clients and the rest of the general public has not received adequate notice of what will be presented to your Board for consideration.
- 2.) If new information and/or documents are presented to your Board for consideration, my clients and I respectfully request the Chair to re-open the public hearing for public comment. Specifically, since the Fresno Chaffee Zoo Authority (FCZA) held a special meeting on June 11, 2014, and adopted a Resolution, which has not been made available in writing to the public, my clients and I object to proceeding to consider new material information and documentation without re-opening the public hearing.

- 3.) After listening several times to the electronic recording of the June 3, 2014 hearing, it appears to me that one of Mr. Barton's statements to your Board was mistaken and/or incorrect. Specifically, at the recording time marking of 1:39:35, Mr. Barton made the following statement in response to an inquiry by Chairman Borgeas, regarding the Chairman's concern about allowing tax payer funds to be used by the "Yes on Measure Z" campaign:

"Not only do no Measure Z funds go to the campaign, but no Zoo dollars go to the campaign."

However, the Zoo Corporation Proposed Budget documentats presented by the Zoo Corporation to the FCZA Board, contained in the FCZA Board packet for the January 29, 2014 Board meeting included two (2) line items identified as revenue and expenses for the Measure Z renew campaign:

- A) Page 8, "Operating Revenue Changes," at line item 5:

"Grants/Fundraising:

Africa	\$ 920,000
Measure Z renewal campaign	\$ 100, 000

- B) Page 10, "Operating Expenses Change continued (sic)", at line item6:

"Expansion/Nonoperting Expenses

Measure Z consultant	\$350,000	Measure Z renewal campaign
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Therefore, contrary to the representation of Mr. Barton to your Board, apparently "Zoo dollars" are projected to be utilized by the Zoo Corporation for the support of the Measure Z renewal campaign, and these documents and expenditures were presented to the FCZA Board and authorized by it.

- 4) My clients object to the approval and adoption of your Board's resolution placing the Measure Z renewal initiative on the ballot without making the amendments to the FCZA Resolution approving the initiative measure and ballot language without including the provisions requested by Supervisor Poochigian, regarding the inclusion of mandatory compliance by the Zoo Corporation with:

- A) the Ralph M. Brown Open Meeting Act;
- B) the Public Records Act; and
- C) a requirement for transparent and open competitive bidding, including open public access to the bidding process, files, and records

In addition, my clients submit that the initiative measure and ballot language should disclose the additional expansion of the Zoo's currently leased 39 acres further into Roeding Park, which will be funded and enabled by the receipt of another \$110 million to \$150 million from the renewal measure proceeds

- 5.) My clients object to what amounts, in essence, to a circumvention of the Fair Political Practices Act (FPPA)'s prohibition against unreported loans or what is referred to in the construction industry as "back-charging" for advances or deferred payment of charges which are not identified or recognized on the initial billing invoice.

Specifically, the payment by the County of Fresno, through its Fresno County Zoo Authority, of the election costs payable to the Elections Division of the County in the proposed amount of \$38,000 to \$45,000 and the forbearance from collection of these campaign costs prior to the election constitutes an unlawful forbearance that functions as a "loan" or provision of credit to the Zoo Corporation and, indirectly, to the "Yes on Measure Z" renewal campaign. Since the Zoo Corporation acknowledges in its approved Budget Proposal for 2014-15, it intends to expend Zoo Corporation funds for Measure Z renewal campaign expenses, such as a campaign consultant. These funds would have to been disbursed by the Zoo Corporation directly or, indirectly, through the Measure Z renewal campaign committee.

By "deferring" the proposed charges payable to the County of Fresno Elections Division until after the election, the Board of Supervisors will be approving either an indirect campaign loan or a contribution to the Measure Z renewal campaign, because of the County FCZA's payment and deferral of the cost to the campaign of this expense, thereby enabling the Zoo Corporation and/or the Measure Z renewal campaign to expend \$38,000-45,000 more for campaign expenses.

- 6.) Further, if the Yes on Measure Z renewal campaign properly reports the "loan" and/or "credit" to the campaign granted by the County through its FCZA, the campaign committee will put the County FCZA in the position of being reported as a campaign contributor or lender. In either case, the substantive transaction---whether reported to the FPPC or not---will put the County in the position of allowing taxpayer generated funds to be used, at least indirectly, to support a political campaign with funds generated by a sales tax on the Fresno County public.
- 7.) Finally, placing the Measure Z Renewal Initiative on the ballot without requiring the Zoo Corporation to have to engage in the petition gathering process required for most citizen-based initiative campaign reeks of favoritism for the Zoo Corporation and will extend the regressive sales tax on Fresno County residents to provide a perpetual subsidy for an unnecessary amenity, despite ample evidence in the record provided by the Zoo Corporation itself that it has adequate funds already to be self-supporting through 2021 and in the future, if the funds are properly managed by them.

For the foregoing reasons, my clients submit that the Measure Z Renewal Initiative should not be placed on the ballot, unless and until the Zoo Corporation and its campaign conduct a petition gathering effort---as any other citizen campaign is required by law to do.

Please deny the request of the FCZA and the Zoo Corporation to place this matter on the ballot and to defer payment of the election costs to the County by the Zoo Corporation's campaign committee.

Respectfully submitted,



RICHARD L. HARRIMAN

Attorney for Friends of Roeding Park
and Lisa Y. Flores

*Original signed copy with exhibits to be filed with Clerk of the Board

cc: Board of Supervisors
John P. Kinsey, Esq.
June S. Ailin, Esq.
Clients

Operating Revenue Changes

▶ Admissions:	\$ 280,000	Increase in visitation
▶ Education:	\$ 18,000	Behind the scenes
▶ Food Services:	\$ 32,000	Increase in visitation
▶ Gift Shop	\$ 52,000	Increase in visitation
▶ Giraffe Feeding:	\$ 34,000	Increase in visitation
▶ Grants/Fundraising: Africa Measure Z renewal campaign	\$ 920,000 \$ 100,000	
▶ Group Events/Facility Rentals	\$ 90,000	Additional group events/facility rentals
▶ Membership	\$ 41,000	Additional members
▶ Special Events	\$ 49,000	Additional revenue brought in by special events
▶ Stingray Bay	\$ 33,000	Increase in visitation
▶ Other		
Vending	\$ 17,000	
Photo Booth	\$ 8,000	

Operating Expenses Changes continued

• Office Rental:	\$ 20,000	Rent for temporary administration office
• Printing:	\$ 10,000	Member newsletter
• Professional Services Legal and Audit Human Resources	\$ 18,000 (\$ 74,000)	Increase in legal expenses HR Manager hired in 2013
• Staff Development	\$ 9,000	
• Supplies Display and Exhibit supplies Education supplies Event supplies Janitorial supplies	(\$8,000) \$ 8,000 \$ 6,000 \$ 10,000	
• Expansion /Nonoperating Expenses Measure Z consultant	\$350,000	Measure Z renewal campaign



**Fresno County Zoo Authority
Capital Projects Fund Cash Flow
For the Month Ended May 31, 2014**

Cash Balance as of 5/31/2014 \$ 47,443,567

ADDITIONS:

*Estimated Revenues Through December 2014 \$ 5,620,131

DEDUCTIONS (earmarked projects, paid through claim 2014-3C):

2014 Graphics	33,599	
2014 Reptile Plaza	50,000	
2014 Entrance/Vault	85,000	
2014 Cobra Exhibit	171,830	
2014 Water Play Area	22,725	
2014 Animal Acquisition	20,000	
2014 Utility Design**	208,772	
2014 African Project Request	48,180,185	
2014 Komodo Dragon	1,200,000	
2013 Reptile House	82,064	
2012 Tropical Treasures	64,938	
2012 Africa Design	411,930	
2012 Exploration Station	100,000	
2012 Sea Lion Construction***	-	
Total Deductions:		<u>\$ (50,631,043)</u>

******TOTAL:** \$ 2,432,655

***Note:** actual revenues used for Jan and Feb 2014. Estimated revenues for Mar-Jun 2014 provided during budget process. For Jul-Dec 2014, used actuals/projections from Jul-Dec 2013. Estimated interest based on 2013 actual interest received

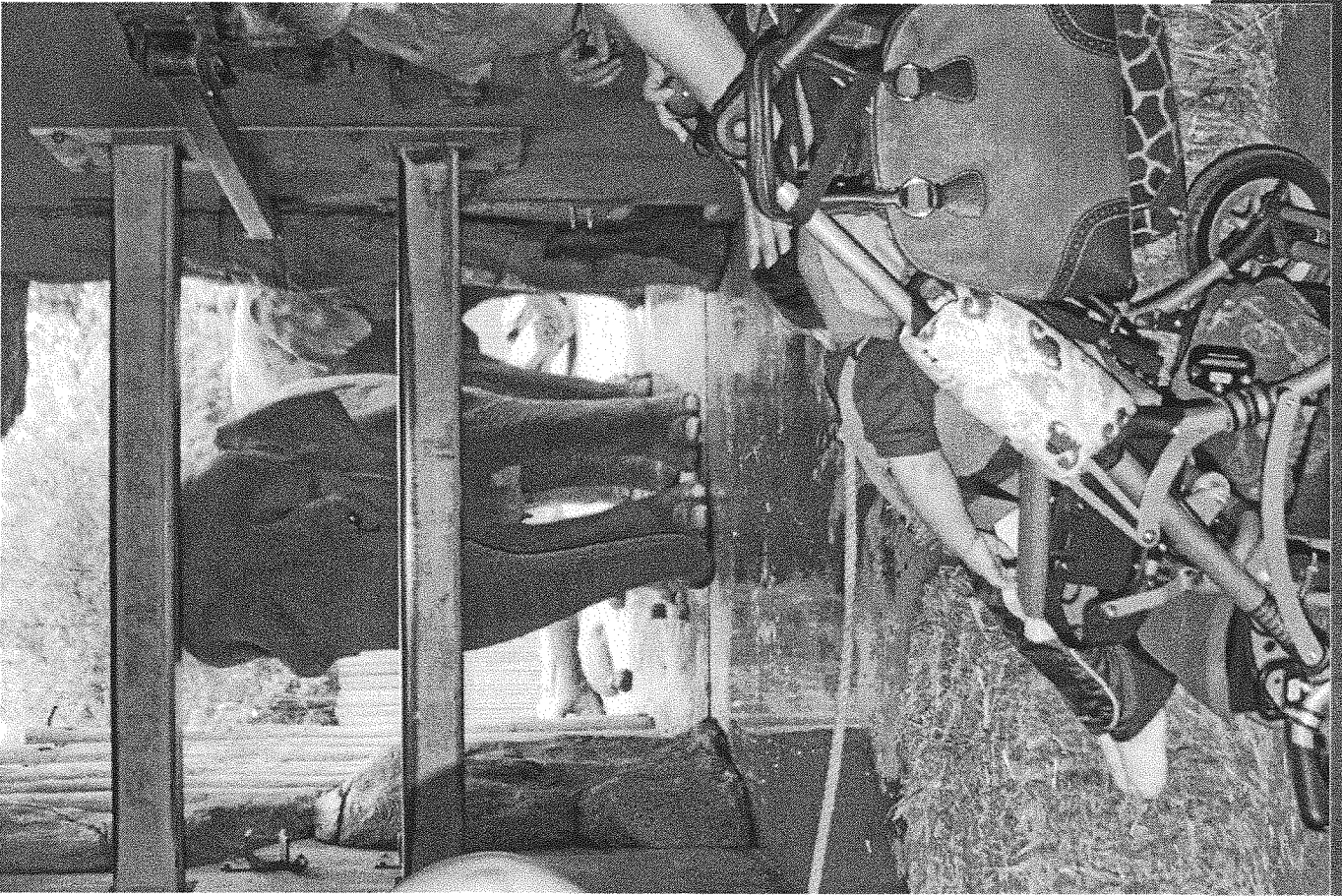
**** Per Brian Goldman, ZC will not utilize \$80,000-\$100,000 of this utility request**

***** Per Brian Goldman, ZC finished billing for SLC on claim 2013-4C**

******Conservatively, in December 2014 cash flows will slightly exceed total earmarked projects; however, this assumes that all amounts within each project are spent, and that all projects will be completed and paid for at this point. Revenue will continue under current measure through April 2015, and interest will continue to be apportioned quarterly**



Fresno Chaffee Zoo

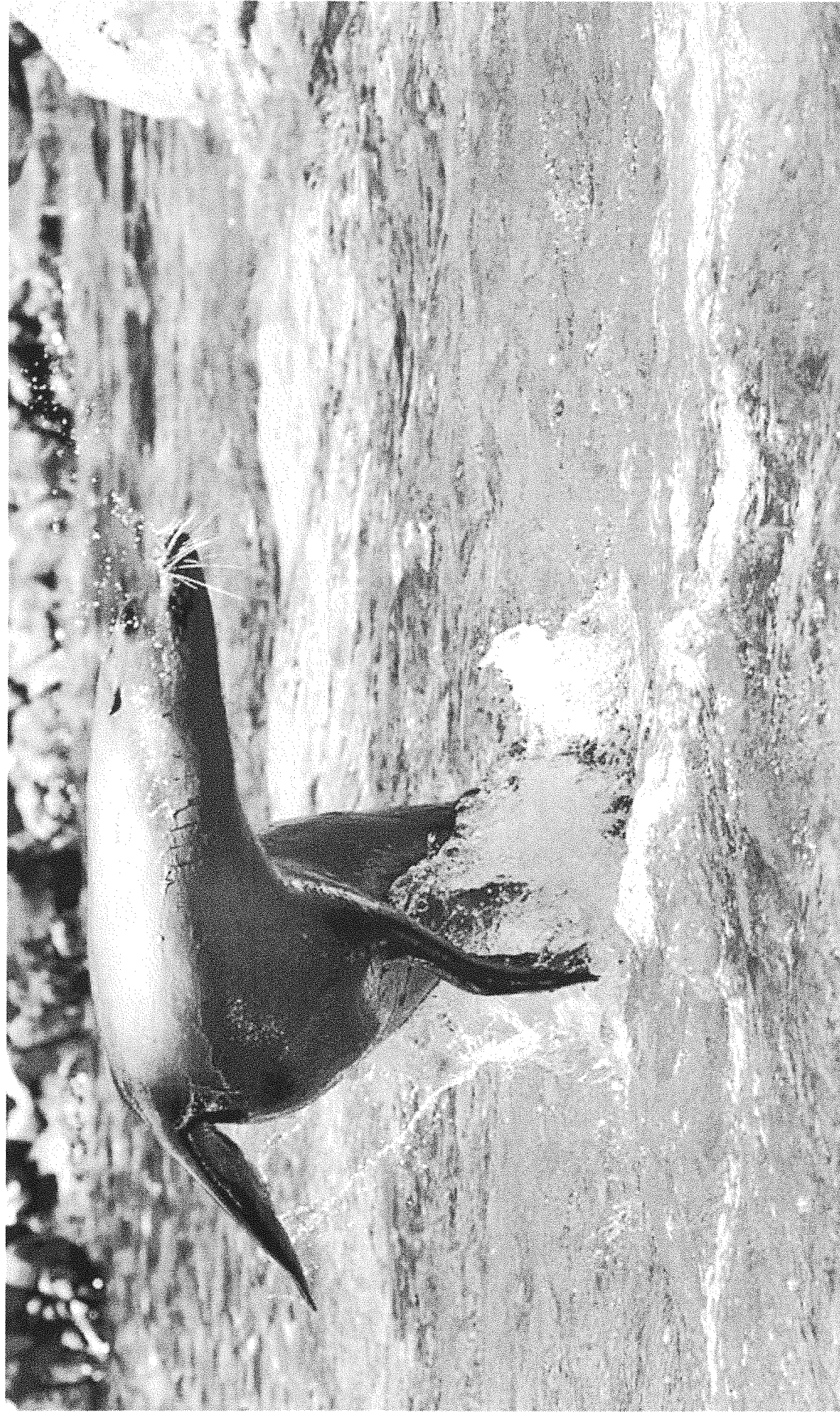




Red wolf pups



Tiger cubs



Fresno Chaffee Zoo

**General Meeting of the Board of Directors
Fresno Chaffee Zoo Education Building
January 9, 2014 5:33 pm**

Board Members Present	Board Members absent	Public Present	Staff Present
Bruce Campbell Colin Dougherty Sieg Fisher Sheri Manning-Cartwright George Nokes Tom Richards Craig Saladino John Valentino	Sharon Levy Shari Rainwater		Scott Barton Lisa Condoian Laura Martina Sandy Pitts

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.:

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

Chair Report: Board Chair Valentino stated Director Fischer had an announcement to make to the board. Director Fischer stated he would be resigning his board position effective January 31, 2014. Board Chair Valentino thanked Director Fischer for his dedication and service all board members echoed the same.

CEO Report: CEO Barton stated attendance was the busiest December in the Zoo's history with over 45,000 visitors. CEO Barton further stated the annual record was set in 2013 with 691,320 visitors. CEO Barton stated Zoo Authority Chair Dr. Paul Toste resented the annual report to the Board of Supervisors and it was well received. CEO Barton stated the African Adventure Groundbreaking event was a great success with Congressman Costa, Mayor Swearengin, Councilmember Caprioglio, Supervisor Perea and many others in attendance. CEO Barton stated the big news for January was the birth of 4 Malayan tiger cubs on January 5th. Mother and cubs are doing well and there will be a monitor set up outside the exhibit so visitors can see the cubs in their den.

CEO Barton stated Director of Marketing, Terri Mejorado will give a presentation on the Marketing Department.

Discuss and consider Financial Report: CFO Goldman reviewed the financial report with the board. Director Dougherty made a motion to accept the financial report as given. Director Rainwater seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Discuss and consider Committee Reports: Assistant Secretary, Lisa Condoian reported for Board Secretary, Levy the bylaws update process has completed legal review and the committee will be meeting soon. Nominating Chair Richards reviewed the Board Officers election process with the board members and presented a slate of officers; Chair, John Valentino, Vice-Chair Tom Richards, Treasurer Craig Saladino and Secretary Sharon Levy. Nominating Chair Richards asked if there were any other submissions. None offered. 2013 Officers elected.

Discuss and consider policy for Procurement of Goods and Services: Board Chair and CEO Barton reviewed the changes to the procurement policy with the board. Director Richards made a motion to accept the changes to the procurement policy. Director Manning-Cartwright seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Discuss and consider the 2014 Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Corporation Board Meeting Calendar: Assistant Secretary Condoian stated per the board survey the meeting day and week has been change to reflect meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the Month a meeting has been planned. Director Manning-Cartwright made a motion to accept the 2014 meeting schedule as presented. Director Nokes seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

The Board Meeting adopted calendar for 2014

- January 9, 2014
- March 19, 2014
- July 16, 2014
- October 15, 2014
- December 17, 2014

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: None offered.

Board questions and comments: Chair Valentino thanked Director Dougherty for his great leadership as previous Board Chair.

Open Meeting Adjournment: 6:13 pm

Closed Session entered: 6:13 pm – **Closed session exited:** 7:40 pm

Announcements:

- Friends of Roeding Park, defend
- LeRoux – Awaiting judge for decision
- CEO – Salary Survey

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



Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Corporation



804 WEST HOLMOTH AVENUE

Fresno, California 93728

**General Meeting of the Board of Directors
Fresno Chaffee Zoo Education Building
March 19, 2014 5:44pm**

Board Members Present	Board Members Absent	Public Present	Staff Present
Bruce Campbell	George Nokes		Scott Barton
Colin Dougherty	Shari Rainwater		Lisa Condoian
Sharon Levy			Sandy Pitts
Sheri Manning-Cartwright			Laura Martina
Tom Richards			Brian Goldman
Craig Saladino			Alisha Anderson
John Valentino			

Meeting called to order at 5:44 p.m.

Discuss and consider minutes: Director Richards made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Director Dougherty seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Chair Report: Director Valentino stated the tiger cubs are a great experience.

CEO Report: CEO Barton stated attendance is doing very well partly due to the great weather. CEO Barton stated a trolley is added for the weekends and holidays to assist zoo and park visitors. CEO Barton reviewed each departmental activities stating the zoo will be receiving a female sloth bear and siamang, tiger cubs continue to delight visitors and will be spending more time outside as weather permits. CEO Barton stated Paka the male tiger has been having some health issues and at 16 years old he is considered elderly. CEO Barton stated African Adventure construction continues on time and budget and the zoo Children's Water Play project is in planning progress.

Committee Reports: None.

Review Financial Report: CFO, Brian Goldman reviewed the current financial report with the board. Director Richards made a motion to accept the financial report. Director Dougherty seconded. Call for discussion. None offered. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Presentation: Curator of Education, Sandy Pitts gave a PowerPoint presentation on "Why Zoos and Aquariums Matter" and the impact these institutions have towards education and conservation.

Board questions and comments: None.

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.

Adjournment: Director Valentino adjourned the meeting at 6:08 pm

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



Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Corporation



894 West Belmont Avenue

Fresno, California 93728

**General Meeting of the Board of Directors
Fresno Chaffee Zoo Education Building
May 21, 2014 5:31pm**

Board Members Present	Board Members Absent	Public Present	Staff Present
Bruce Campbell	Sharon Levy		Scott Barton
Colin Dougherty	Craig Saladino		Lisa Condoian
Sheri Manning-Cartwright (6:15pm)			Sandy Pitts
Shari Rainwater			Laura Martina
Tom Richards			Brian Goldman
John Valentino			Alisha Anderson

DRAFT

Meeting called to order at 5:31 p.m.

Discuss and consider minutes: Director Dougherty made a motion to accept the March minutes as amended. Director Richards seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Chair Report: None.

CEO Report: CEO Barton stated the zoo received an Arbor Day Landscape Award from Tree Fresno. CEO Barton stated attendance is 4% ahead of year to date with the record breaking 2013 attendance numbers. CEO Barton stated membership has broken 14,000 for the first time in Zoo's history. CEO Barton stated Africa Adventure construction continues on time and budget soon vertical structures will be visible. CEO Barton stated tiger cubs continue to be a big hit.

Committee Reports: Bylaws and Nominating will be meeting soon.

Review Financial Report: CFO, Brian Goldman reviewed the current financial report with the board. Director Rainwater made a motion to accept the financial report. Director Richards seconded. Call for discussion. None offered. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Presentation: Curator of Education, Sandy Pitts gave a PowerPoint presentation on the conservation projects and groups Fresno Chaffee Zoo are partnering with. CEO Barton presented the ZooPoo project in partnership with Gazebo Gardens. CEO Barton presented the tiger cam video.

Board questions and comments: Director Dougherty asked about solar for Education, Zoo Hospital and the Africa project. CEO Barton stated that solar is always considered and implemented when and where possible. Director Nokes inquired about the ZooPoo project. CEO Barton stated that the costs for the ZooPoo project are covered by the sales and the profits go to Elephant conservation projects.

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.

Adjournment: Director Valentino adjourned the meeting at 6:19 pm

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

Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
of the Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Corporation
Fresno Chaffee Zoo Education Building
June 16, 2014 1:00pm

Board Members Present	Board Members Absent	Public Present	Staff Present
John Valentino, Chair	Sheri Manning-Cartwright	None	Alisha Anderson
Tom Richards, Vice-Chair			Scott Barton
Craig Saladino, Treasurer			Lisa Condoian
Sharon Levy, Secretary (1:08pm)			Brian Goldman
Bruce Campbell			Laura Martina
Colin Dougherty			Sandy Pitts
George Nokes			
Shari Rainwater (1:05pm)			

DRAFT

Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m.

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. None Offered.

Discuss and consider to authorize chair to negotiate and execute an Agreement with Fresno Zoo Authority for the payment of up to \$75,000 for the add-on costs of the election: Director Dougherty made a motion to authorize the execution of the agreement as stated in item#4 of the agenda. Director Richards seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Discuss and consider resolution 2014-061614 regarding Board of Supervisors concerns: Director Richards made a motion to approve resolution 2014-061614 as presented. Director Dougherty seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Discuss, consider and approve Audit Committee Chair: Director Saladino made a motion to elect Director Richards As chair of the Audit Committee. Director Dougherty seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Board questions and comments: None.

Directors Levy and Rainwater were not present during the review of agenda items #4 and #5. Both items were reviewed again. Director Dougherty a motion to approve agenda items #4 and #5 as presented. Director Saladino seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Director Valentino adjourned the meeting at 1:25 pm

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



Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Corporation



804 West Belmont Avenue

Fresno, California 93728

Standing Audit Committee Meeting of the Board of Directors
of the Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Corporation
Fresno Chaffee Zoo Education Building
Tuesday, June 17, 2014 2:00 pm

<u>Committee Members Present</u>	<u>Committee Members Absent</u>	<u>Public Present</u>	<u>Staff Present</u>
Tom Richards, Chair Bruce Campbell George Nokes Shari Rainwater Gary Renner		None Present	Scott Barton Lisa Condoian Brian Goldman
		<u>Moore Grider Company</u> Kelli Steele	

DRAFT

Chairman Richards called the meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Chair Report: Committee Chair Richards stated the committee has come together to review, discuss and consider the financial statements, management letter and audit committee letter for the 2013 audit. Committee Chair Richards introduced Ms. Kelli Steele of the Moore Grider Company.

Moore Grider Company: Ms. Steele reviewed the audit process and audit report with the Audit Committee. Ms. Steele stated there were no disagreements with Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Corporation further stating the audit tests of controls and processes went very well and separation of duties are in place as required. Ms. Steele stated the staff was very cooperative. Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Corporation is following all the agreed upon procedures for Measure Z and third party (Fresno City) expenses as there were no exceptions noted.

Committee Questions and Comments: Committee Chair Richards thanked Ms. Steele for her services. Committee Chair Richards called for any comment. None offered.

Committee Member Rainwater made a motion to accept the audit report as presented and to send to the full board for approval. Committee Member Renner seconded. All in Favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

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. None offered.

Adjournment: Committee Chair Richards adjourned the meeting at 2:14pm.

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

Fresno Chaffee Zoo turns elephant poo into a fundraising coup

By Bethany Clough The Fresno Bee May 9, 2014

Call it caca for a cause. A fecal fundraiser.

Whatever term you prefer, Zoo Poo -- composted elephant manure -- is for sale at Gazebo Gardens Nursery, part of a partnership with the Fresno Chaffee Zoo. The doodie do-gooders are raising money to protect elephants in Africa, while benefiting backyard gardeners and keeping thousands of pounds of elephant excrement out of landfills.

The poo has been composting in a corner of the Van Ness Boulevard nursery for three months, breaking down until it transforms into a soil amendment that resembles a pile of dirt. It's for sale in \$5, one-quart novelty packages, enough for one tomato plant. Or in half-cubic yards -- the size of about three garbage cans. For \$100, that can be loaded into pickups.

"It just smells like soil. Nothing pooppy about it all," says Gazebo Gardens owner Scott Miller as he plunges his hands into the pile of compost.

Chaffee Zoo is following the lead of other zoos that have decided not to let animal waste go to waste.

Once expenses are covered, the money goes to the Tarangire Elephant Project in Tanzania. The program tracks more than 1,000 elephants and creates migration corridors where elephants can avoid run-ins with humans. It's important work on a continent where 96 elephants a day are killed, says zoo director Scott Barton.

Chaffee Zoo has some experience when it comes to doing something with its doo doo. In 2010 the zoo started composting animal droppings for its own landscaping. But the zoo didn't have the marketing power to do more with it, nor the room to compost much of it, Barton says. Most of it ended up in landfills.

So when Miller agreed to take on the role of manure man and coordinate weekly pick-ups, the zoo jumped on the opportunity.

The Zoo Poo also includes manure from other herbivores, including zebras, giraffes and warthogs. But since the zoo's two 8,000-pound Asian elephants produce so much waste, their dung makes up the bulk of the compost.

Kara and Shaunzi, the zoo's two female elephants, produce between 200 and 250 pounds of waste a day, says Amber Talley, lead keeper of elephants and hoof stock. And she would know; she's one of the people who hauls wheelbarrows full of it out of their enclosure.

Elephants eat mostly oat hay, along with the occasional side of bamboo or mulberry trees.

"We'll actually drag out whole trees and they'll eat those," Talley says. "They love those."

The quart-size packages of Zoo Poo are sold in what looks like take-out containers of Chinese food. (The fact that the elephants are Asian was unplanned coincidence, organizers say.)

The compost is completely organic -- no growth hormones or salt from salt licks that you might get in cattle manure, Miller says. Elephant manure is also said to be better for plants than steer manure because it has more slow-release nitrogen. And it won't burn plants like chicken manure, with its high nitrogen content.

"Elephant manure is really a worldwide hipster trend," Miller says. "My prediction is that there will be some record-breaking tomatoes this year."

For now, the Zoo Poo is only for sale at Gazebo Gardens and the zoo's gift shop, and will soon be available at Peeve's Public House & Local Market on the Fulton Mall. Organizers hope more retailers will carry it as part of the fundraiser.

Although Gazebo Gardens expects to eventually run out of Zoo Poo, the poop project has potential. The zoo is scheduled to get more elephants when it debuts its 13-acre, \$55.9 million African Adventure exhibit in about 14 months.

It's not clear yet how many of the big animals will end up at Chaffee, but Barton says they're hoping for enough to start a breeding program.

The elephants already at the zoo have no idea so much attention is being paid to what they leave behind. Kara and Shaunzi are the type to avoid their poo, keeper Talley says. They don't step in it.

"They'd probably be like, 'Really? You're taking our poop? Ew.' "

Read more here: <http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/05/09/3919116/fresno-chaffee-zoo-turns-elephant.html###storylink=cpy>

Tiger Beat: Fresno zoo cubs hit 'lovable brats' stage

Ron Orozco The Fresno Bee June 2, 2014

The four cubs are growing up, each weighing 30 to 40 pounds, and playful as kittens exploring their enclosure at the Fresno Chaffee Zoo. The Malayan tiger cubs at Fresno Chaffee Zoo are nearing 5 months old and still are adorable. But they also have hit a stage comparable to human children's terrible 2s. They throw tantrums, refuse to do what they are told, whine if they don't get their way and demand to be first.

"Ask their mom," says Lyn Myers, the zoo's assistant curator for mammals. Their mother, Mek, won't tolerate it. She growls and swipes at them. So Arya, Batari, Berani and Cinta do an end-around. "They're obnoxious with each other," Myers says. "They take it out on each other. They grab, they sock -- nothing is out of the possibilities."

Born Jan. 5, the cubs turned 148 days old Monday. They are developing at just the right pace, Myers says. Once scrawny on top and with full bellies, they are starting to fill out. Their weight averages 35 to 40 pounds. They also are nursing less as well as increasing the amount of meat they eat one-quarter to one-half pound per week.

Batari, one of the two females, is experiencing the worst of the terrible 2s. Come feeding time, she screams out if she isn't fed first. So loud are Batari's high-pitched screams that Myers hears them at her zoo office a considerable distance from the tiger habitat. "She wants it now!" Myers says. "As soon as she eats, she stops. "Our staff is perplexed. We're trying to teach her to wait -- and that there's no reward for bad behavior."

Adding to the rough-housing, the cubs also are learning how to hunt. One way is to flip each other to the ground by the neck. "It's fun now, but it's also honing them for skills to hunt," Myers says.

On Monday, when some of the cubs pounced on their mom, students from Eaton Elementary School on a zoo field trip let out "wows. Tracy Andrade, a parent chaperone on the trip, says she understands how even tiger cubs can go through terrible 2s. "They've gotten a lot more playful," says Andrade, who also visited the zoo when the cubs made their public debut March 11. And, she adds, "They've gotten big."

Fresno County supervisors postpone ballot decision on renewing zoo funding measure

By Marc Benjamin

The Fresno Bee June 3, 2014

Fresno County supervisors on Tuesday postponed a resolution to put Measure Z -- which provides funding for the Fresno Chaffee Zoo -- up for renewal on the November election ballot. Supervisors want to know if the Fresno County Zoo Authority needs to pick up the bill for the ballot measure. Zoo officials said Measure Z's campaign committee could pay, if necessary. But County Counsel Dan Cederborg said he didn't know if the zoo campaign should pay the nearly \$45,000 cost, because it would give a role in the election to an agency with a vested interest in the outcome. Cederborg said he will review the matter.

Following the meeting, zoo director Scott Barton said an earlier county counsel said the county should pick up the cost, which is why it was on the supervisors' agenda. Under Measure Z, revenue from a tenth-a-cent sales tax pays for zoo programs. About two-thirds pays for projects, such as Sea Lion Cove, and another third pays for personnel. Measure Z will have generated \$100 million for the zoo by the time it expires later this year.

Zoo opponents asked supervisors not to offer "a subsidy for this corporation," according to lawyer Richard Harriman, who has filed lawsuits against the city of Fresno and Fresno Chaffee Zoo over expansion plans. Harriman, one of three to speak against Measure Z, asked supervisors to bring the issue back again next year for consideration. Lisa Flores, a citizen opposing Chaffee's expansion, said the zoo, which 10 years ago was teetering on the brink of closing, has stabilized its business model and no longer needs taxpayers' dollars. "Now it's time to stand up and deliver," she said. "Let them stand up like other enterprises have to do."

Fresno Chaffee Zoo Corp. board member Colin Dougherty said the zoo has been successful in large part because of Measure Z, which has allowed the zoo to expand and renovate. "It's terrible to be chastised for being successful and I think we have shown you success in the last 10 years," he told supervisors.

In addition to paying the costs for the ballot measure, supervisors wanted the zoo corporation to make its bidding process public, allowing an accounting for each bid proposed for zoo projects. Under the existing rules, the zoo selects the best-value bidder, Barton said, which could be the low bidder but also may be the most qualified or the bidder that can get the work done fastest.

Supervisors also asked that the zoo corporation make its financial records available under the state Public Records Act. Those documents are made available by the Fresno County Zoo Authority, which conducts financial oversight for the zoo, including audits, monthly financial information, project costs and budgets, Barton said.

Following the meeting, Barton said every audit done for Measure Z has returned "absolutely clean." Measure Z's renewal is needed for the zoo to expand to 39 acres in Roeding Park with additional exhibits over the next 10 years. The current tax rate will remain the same if Fresno County voters approve it.

"All we are asking them to do is put it on the ballot and let the voters decide," Barton said. Supervisors will discuss Measure Z again on June 17.

Fresno County voters to reconsider Measure Z in fall election

By Marc Benjamin The Fresno Bee June 11, 2014

The Fresno County Zoo Authority voted Wednesday to put Measure Z -- which provides funding for the Fresno Chaffee Zoo -- on the November ballot. The measure would ask voters throughout Fresno County if they want to continue the one-tenth-of-a-cent tax that went into effect 10 years ago. Revenue to pay for the ballot measure will come from the nonprofit Fresno Chaffee Zoo Corp. The nonprofit will pay up to \$75,000 to place the issue on the ballot. Election costs are estimated to be about \$45,000.

According to county ordinance, the zoo authority can pay for the election. Under the plan adopted Wednesday, the nonprofit corporation will pay the authority.

The decision was necessary after Fresno County supervisors last week delayed placing Measure Z on the November ballot, questioning use of taxpayer dollars from Measure Z revenues for renewal of the one-tenth-of-a-cent sales tax. The nonprofit corporation offered "non-tax revenue" to pay for the ballot measure. The corporation forwarded its proposal to the zoo authority, which oversees the zoo corporation's purse strings.

Fresno County Counsel Dan Cederborg examined if the zoo corporation could use Measure Z proceeds to place the issue on the ballot, and said there is nothing in state law to prohibit it. Using tax revenues is "not a legal requirement one way or the other," he said Wednesday.

In 2004, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance that said "proceeds of the tax shall first be applied to reimburse Fresno County for the cost of the election and the proceeds of the tax shall be available to pay the cost for any election for a successor tax," said Kathy Crosby, the zoo authority coordinator.

Zoo authority board members said they felt language from the 2004 measure clearly states that Measure Z funds can be used to pay for a future measure. "The taxpayers of this county voted on something 10 years ago that was very specific in the language ... in that ordinance," said Gerald Lyles. "For the Board of Supervisors to even think that they can usurp that, the vote of the taxpayers, I think is a little ridiculous."

Regardless of the language, authority Chairman Peter Herzog said supervisors had a problem with how funds could be used. "I think this is a generous act by the (nonprofit) zoo board," he said.

Lisa Flores, a plaintiff in lawsuits against the city of Fresno and Fresno Chaffee Zoo Corp., said Measure Z and the zoo's expansion plans are a "very greedy money grab" by the nonprofit zoo corporation. All the lawsuits over the Roeding Park environmental document were dismissed except one case pending on an alleged change to park entryways.

The new Measure Z would also be a one-tenth-of-a-cent sales tax to pay for additional exhibits that include large animals, such as hippos, and expand the zoo to 39 acres -- about one-quarter of Roeding Park, its ultimate build out if the renewal of Measure Z is passed. About two-thirds of Measure Z pays for projects, such as Sea Lion Cove and African Adventure (now under construction) and another third pays for staffing. Measure Z will have generated \$100 million for the zoo by the time it expires later this year.

Fresno Chaffee Zoo board OKs \$75,000 for Measure Z renewal vote

By Brianna Vaccari

The Fresno Bee June 16, 2014 Updated 2 hours ago

The Fresno Chaffee Zoo Corp. board of directors voted unanimously Monday to cover the cost to put Measure Z on the November ballot for renewal. The measure would ask Fresno County voters to continue the one-tenth-of-a-cent sales tax that first went into effect 10 years ago. The zoo will pay up to \$75,000 with non-tax revenue to put the issue on the ballot, said zoo director Scott Barton. Election costs are estimated to be about \$45,000.

Fresno County supervisors balked earlier this month when they were asked to foot the bill to put the Measure Z renewal up for a public vote this fall.

The new Measure Z would also be a one-tenth-of-a cent sales tax to pay for additional exhibits that include large animals, such as hippos, and to expand the zoo to 39 acres -- about one-quarter of Roeding Park, its ultimate build-out if the renewal of Measure Z is passed.

The zoo board also passed a resolution stating its intention to continue to comply with transparency policies and provide information to the public. The resolution established a new policy to provide names of contractors, pre-construction fees, general conditions and the construction manager contingency proposal for projects exceeding \$4 million.

For the most part, the resolution covered things the zoo already does, Barton said.

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to vote today on a resolution to officially put the measure on the Nov. 4 ballot.

Fresno's Chaffee Zoo funding heading for November ballot

<http://abc30.com/news/fresnos-chaffee-zoo-funding-heading-for-november-ballot/120216/#videoplayer>

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors agreed to put the zoo's funding plan, Measure Z on the November ballot.

Construction on the next big phase of the zoo expansion is well underway.

By Gene Haagenon Tuesday, June 17, 2014 FRESNO, Calif.



Fresno County voters will get to decide if they want to continue funding improvements to Fresno's Chaffee Zoo.

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors agreed to put the zoo's funding plan, Measure Z on the November ballot.

Construction on the next big phase of the zoo expansion is well underway.

The new construction, along with the Sea Lion Cove and other attractions all paid for with Measure Z, the one tenth of a cent sales tax measure approved by voters ten years ago. It brings in \$10 million a year.

But before allowing another Measure Z to go before the voters, some supervisors wanted to make sure the zoo was being open about its finances.

Supervisor Judy Case McNairy said it was a matter of public trust, "And when the public is having their money spent they deserve to know what it's being spent on."

The zoo corporation and its board of directors agreed to give the supervisors more information about what's going on.

They also agreed to pay the estimated \$45 thousand cost to the county of holding the next Measure Z vote in November. Zoo director Scott Barton said they were happy to comply.

Barton explained, "We are in complete agreement on the issues you are discussing now the language addition, the contract change, all of those issues, paying for the election."

With the supervisors desire to scrutinize the zoo apparently satisfied, former Fresno County Supervisor Sharon Levy, who also serves on the zoo's board of directors encouraged the current board to stay positive about the zoo.

Levy said, "I look forward to and hope you will place this ballot measure for the voters to make their voice known, and I'm sure it's going to be a positive one because we look forward to the next many years of continued improvement and I hope you've all been out there with your families."

Gorilla on mend from valley fever at zoo

The Associated Press

June 20, 2014

LOS ANGELES — Jabari, a western lowland gorilla living at the Los Angeles Zoo, is on the mend after receiving treatment for a severe case of valley fever.

The great ape has had the fungal infection for about three years and had lost about a fifth of his body weight, the Los Angeles Times reported (<http://lat.ms/1prvz2L>).

But after giving Jabari a checkup on Thursday, veterinarians said he has regained much of that weight, and is back up to a relatively normal 360 pounds.

"The good news is that Jabari has finally turned the corner and is doing very well," said Curtis Eng, the zoo's chief veterinarian.

Several months ago, the 16-year-old gorilla was put on posaconazole, a potent and expensive medication that he washes down with grape juice. He may end up taking it for the rest of his life, at a cost of roughly \$17,000 a month.

In late 2011, Jabari developed symptoms consistent with a bad cold: persistent cough, fever, runny nose, loss of appetite and lethargy. When he didn't respond to antibiotics, extensive testing revealed he was suffering from valley fever, a fungal disease similar to pneumonia.

After consulting with veterinarians across the country and physicians who treat humans with the disease, zookeepers initially placed Jabari on a medication that needed to be administered intravenously after he was sedated.

"Jabari was immobilized 25 times over a period of about two months in 2012 to get him to start feeling better," Eng told the newspaper.

In humans and animals alike, valley fever is contracted by breathing fungal spores that are released into the air when soil is disturbed. The illness is prevalent in the desert areas of California and Arizona, but it's rarely contracted in the Los Angeles area.