



**9:00 AM, Wednesday, February 24, 2016**

Fresno County Employees' Retirement Association

1111 H Street, Fresno, CA 93721

(559) 457-0681

**Action Summary Minutes**

1. Call to Order

**VICE CHAIRMAN GERALD LYLES CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 9:02 AM. A QUORUM WAS PRESENT INCLUDING THE VICE CHAIRMAN, OLIVER BAINES, KENT STRATFORD, PAUL TOSTE, AND RALPH WATERHOUSE. CHAIRMAN PETER HERZOG WAS ABSENT. MICHELLE ROMAN ARRIVED DURING ITEM 2.**

0:00:07

2. Nominations and election of 2016 Chairman and Vice Chairman

**MEMBER ROMAN WAS NOMINATED FOR CHAIRMAN BY MEMBER TOSTE. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY; MEMBERS HERZOG AND ROMAN WERE ABSENT. MEMBER LYLES WAS NOMINATED FOR VICE CHAIRMAN BY MEMBER WATERHOUSE. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY; MEMBER HERZOG WAS ABSENT.**

0:2:55

3. 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.**

0:3:33

4. 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.

**MEMBER TOSTE REQUESTED THAT ITEM B BE PULLED FOR DISCUSSION, AND MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF ITEMS A AND C; SECONDED BY MEMBER WATERHOUSE AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. MEMBER HERZOG WAS ABSENT.**

**ITEM B: AFTER CLARIFICATION FROM COORDINATOR CATHY CROSBY THAT THE CORRECT INVOICE AMOUNT WAS \$31,815.15, AS SHOWN ON THE AGENDA ITEM, NOT \$29,594.15 AS ON THE PUBLISHED AGENDA, MEMBER TOSTE MOVED FOR APPROVAL, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYLES AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. MEMBER HERZOG WAS ABSENT.**

- a. Review and approve minutes of December 9, 2016
- b. Review and approve payment of County of Fresno invoice for Professional and Specialized Services in the amount of \$29,594.15 for November and December 2015
- c. Receive Treasurer's Reports for November and December 2015, and January 2016

0:06:26

5. Receive Fresno Chaffee Zoo Director's report

**RECEIVED; DIRECTOR SCOTT BARTON REPORTED THAT THE SUCCESS OF AFRICAN ADVENTURE HAS BEEN GREATER THAN THEY HAD HOPED. VISITORS HAVE BEEN EXCITED AND DESCRIBE IT AS A GREAT VALUE. A VISITOR SURVEY IS PLANNED FOR SPRING, AND VISITORS FROM OTHER ZOOS HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED. SELECTION OF A DESIGNER FOR THE AFRICA RIVER EXHIBIT IS UNDERWAY, SCHEMATIC DESIGN IS IN PROCESS FOR A NEW TIGER EXHIBIT EXPANSION AND FOR THE SELECTION OF DESIGNERS FOR AN AMBASSADOR EDUCATION ANIMAL HOLDING AREA AND ANIMAL NUTRITION/ COMMISSARY BUILDING. HE EXPECTS TO MAKE A REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR THESE PROJECTS WITHIN THE NEXT 3-4 MONTHS AND ANTICIPATES THE OPENING OF THE TIGER EXHIBIT IN 2017 AND AFRICA RIVER IN 2018.**

**THE DIRECTOR THEN DISCUSSED JANUARY'S FIRST ADMISSION INCREASE IN TEN YEARS AND THE FREE AND REDUCED ADMISSIONS AVAILABLE, STATING THAT THE ZOO WAS ONE OF THE LEAST EXPENSIVE IN THE COUNTRY. FACTORS INFLUENCING THE INCREASE INCLUDED DOUBLING THE SIZE OF THE ZOO, 13 ACRES OF NEW EXHIBITS, ADDING MANY LARGE ANIMALS, A 51% INCREASE IN FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES, AN INCREASE IN MINIMUM WAGE AFFECTING 50% OF EMPLOYEES, AND HEALTH BENEFITS COSTS. ATTENDANCE COMPARISONS WITH LAST YEAR SHOW A 42% INCREASE IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY.**

**MEMBER LYLES ASKED ABOUT RECENT LOCAL PRESS RELEASES. MEMBER TOSTE REQUESTED THAT THE ZOO CORPORATION CONSIDER ANNUAL REVIEWS OF ADMISSION PRICES WITH INCREMENTAL INCREASES AND EARLIER NOTIFICATION; MEMBER BAINES CONCURRED.**

0:24:30

6. Receive Fresno Chaffee Zoo Corporation Chief Financial Officer's reports for November 2015

**RECEIVED; BRIAN GOLDMAN REPORTED THAT THEY ARE STILL CLOSING OUT THE BOOKS ON 2015, AND REVENUE IS FAR AHEAD OF PROJECTIONS. REVENUE IS UP 10% OVER LAST YEAR, 2015 EXPENSES WILL BE VERY CLOSE TO BUDGET; ATTENDANCE WAS UP BY 100,000; FUNDRAISING FOR AFRICAN ADVENTURE WAS SUCCESSFUL; OPERATING SURPLUS WILL EXCEED \$1M, YEAR-TO-DATE CONCESSIONS AND GIFT SHOP ARE UP 40% AND 21%, RESPECTIVELY. ADMISSION REVENUE IS 20% OF THE BUDGET; THROUGH THE END OF FEBRUARY, MEMBERSHIP IS 30% AHEAD OF BUDGET. BY THE NEXT MEETING, THE END OF YEAR UNAUDITED NUMBERS, AS WELL AS JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND POSSIBLY MARCH FIGURES WILL BE AVAILABLE.**

**MEMBER TOSTE ASKED ABOUT THE ZOO CORP'S INVESTMENTS AND MR. GOLDMAN DISCUSSED THEIR ENDOWMENT FUND FOR ALL GIFTS RECEIVED.**

0:31:10

7. Fresno Chaffee Zoo Corporation 2016 budget requests
  - a. Approve Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Corporation fiscal year 2016 Measure Z Operating funds totaling \$4,250,120 for reimbursement of Animal and Veterinary salary and benefits, Animal Food, Utilities, and Bank Fees to wire reimbursement funds to the Zoo
  - b. Approve Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Corporation fiscal year 2016 Measure Z Capital funds totaling \$20,000 for Animal Acquisition and Transportation and bank fees for reimbursement of capital claims

**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER GOLDMAN PRESENTED THE OPERATIONS REQUEST AND STATED THAT-OPERATING BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS INCLUDE PROJECTED ATTENDANCE OF 850,000; THE ADDITION OF 15 FULL TIME STAFF FOR A TOTAL OF 131 FULL-TIME AND 87 PART-TIME POSITIONS; INCREASED COSTS RELATED TO AFRICAN ADVENTURE; ADMISSION PRICE INCREASES, WITH NO INCREASE IN GIRAFFE FEEDING, STINGRAY BAY OR SCHOOL GROUP PRICES; AND \$10 OFF A FAMILY MEMBERSHIP FOR FRESNO COUNTY RESIDENTS.**

1:06:50 ops vote

**AFTER DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC COMMENT, MEMBER TOSTE MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYLES, TO APPROVE THE OPERATIONS BUDGET REQUEST. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. MEMBER HERZOG WAS ABSENT. THE MOTION WAS LATER RE-STATED FOR CLARITY; THE RE-VOTE WAS ALSO UNANIMOUS.**

**MR. GOLDMAN PRESENTED THE CAPITAL REQUEST STATING THAT TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR ANIMALS ARE ANTICIPATED THIS YEAR, BUT UNCERTAIN AT THIS TIME.**

**1:13:50 CAP VOTE AFTER DISCUSSION AND CLARIFICATION OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$20,200 AS STATED IN THE AGENDA ITEM, NOT \$20,000 AS ON THE PUBLISHED AGENDA, MEMBER TOSTE MOVED FOR APPROVAL, SECONDED BY MEMBER LYLES AND THE REQUEST WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. MEMBER HERZOG WAS ABSENT.**

1:14:14

8. Receive report on update to Zoo Authority website and provide direction to staff  
**BOARD COORDINATOR CATHY CROSBY PRESENTED THREE POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR THE WEBSITE. AFTER DISCUSSION, THE CONSENSUS OF MEMBERS WAS TO REMAIN INDEPENDENT OF THE COUNTY OF FRESNO'S WEBSITE, PURSUE OPTION 2, AND TO DIRECT COUNTY GRAPHICS AND IT STAFF TO DEVELOP AN UPDATED SITE WITH A CONTEMPORARY LOOK AND FEATURES WITHIN THE COST ESTIMATE GIVEN.**

1:27:06

9. Receive Staff Reports  
**TREASURER JEFF BLANKS INTRODUCED SENIOR ACCOUNTANT MEGAN MARKS, WHO ALONG WITH ACCOUNTANT VALERIE DURLAM, WILL BE TAKING OVER OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TREASURER FUNCTION. HE ALSO STATED HE WILL CONTINUE OVERSIGHT AT LEAST THROUGH JUNE TO PREPARE THE FINAL BUDGET-TO-ACTUAL REPORT FOR THE AFRICAN ADVENTURE PROJECT AND ASSIST WITH THE 2016-17 ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET.**

1:28:17

**MS. CROSBY REPORTED THAT STAFF HAS BEGUN A REVIEW OF THE AUTHORITY'S PROCEDURES FOR APPROVING AND ADMINISTERING MEASURE Z FUNDS TO UPDATE THE DOCUMENT AND CLARIFY METHODOLOGY SINCE THE LAST REVIEW IN 2012. 1:30:00 MEMBER TOSTE REQUESTED THAT A SEPARATE SUMMARY PAGE BE PROVIDED WITH CLAIM DOCUMENTS SENT TO MEMBERS FOR REVIEW.**

1:35:00

10. Confirm next meeting date(s)                    Wednesday, March 30, 2016  
   Wednesday, April 27, 2016  
   Wednesday, May 25, 2016

**AFTER DISCUSSION, MEMBER TOSTE MADE A MOTION TO CANCEL THE MARCH 30, 2016 MEETING AND TO MEET NEXT ON APRIL 27, 2016. SECONDED BY MEMBER LYLES, THE VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS. MEMBER HERZOG WAS ABSENT. MEMBER WATERHOUSE STATED HE WOULD BE ABSENT AT THE NEXT MEETING.**

1:37:07

11. Chair's comments

**CHAIRMAN ROMAN THANKED MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONFIDENCE IN HER AND THANKED MR. LYLES FOR HIS ASSISTANCE.**

1:37:35

12. Board Member comments

**DISCUSSION OF THE 2014-15 ANNUAL REPORT AND ITS DISTRIBUTION LEAD TO DIRECTION TO STAFF TO HAVE MORE PRINTED AND COPIES MAILED TO THE COUNCIL MEMBERS OF ALL FRESNO COUNTY CITIES AND TO ALL MEDIA OUTLETS THAT EARLIER HAD RECEIVED THE REPORT'S PRESS RELEASE.**

1:43:00

13. Adjourn

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIRMAN ROMAN ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 10:45 AM.**

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

For further information, please contact Catherine Crosby, Zoo Authority Coordinator, at 600-4305, email [zooauthority@co.fresno.ca.us](mailto:zooauthority@co.fresno.ca.us), or visit [www.zooauthority.org](http://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.