

FRESNO'S CHAFFEE ZOO CORPORATION
Board Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2006

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Public Comment</u>
Cheryl Assemi	none	Lesley Gates
Tom Templeton		Shelley Morrison
Sharon Levy		
Shari Rainwater		
Sheri Manning-Cartwright		

Meeting called to order at 5:38 p.m.

Discuss and Consider Minutes: Shari Rainwater asked if anyone had any changes they would like made to the minutes from the January 3rd through March 1st meetings. Tom Templeton made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meetings. Sheri Manning-Cartwright seconded the motion. All members were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Presentation of Bank Services and Donation from County Bank: Brad Majors of County Bank made a donation to the zoo in the amount of \$25,000.00. County Bank representatives then did a presentation on the banking services and lending options they can provide to the Fresno Chaffee Zoo.

401 K Presentation: Randy Buresh of Benefit Administration Corporation and Dan Ray, president of Regency Investment Providers did a presentation on 401K possibilities and provided handouts on portfolio opportunities. Shelley Morrison stated that when the FCZC board voted in a previous meeting to accept the suggested pay and benefits for employees, that vote included accepting a salary matching benefit up to 4% of an eligible employee's salary. Buresh suggested that the FCZC vote to accept the current 401K plan held by the Zoo Society through his corporation. Tom Riggs added that any vote on the topic of the 401K would need to be held off until the next meeting, as only the presentation of the 401k plan was recorded on the agenda.

Thank You Day for City of Fresno Employees: Jerry Haines, on behalf of Randy Cooper, Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Fresno, requested that the FCZC board consider offering a free day at the zoo to all City of Fresno employees to thank them for their hard work during the pre-accreditation inspection clean up. Mr. Haines requested that employees and their families be admitted, free of charge. Employees will show their City of Fresno I.D. or a current pay stub. Mr. Haines added that he and Shelley Morrison, Interim Zoo Director had discussed it and thought that Saturday, April 1st would be a good day. Sharon Levy made a motion to offer free admission to City of Fresno employees and their families on April 1st, 2006. Assemi seconded the motion. All members were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Lesley Gates, Interim Director of Education for Fresno Chaffee Zoo shared that the Parks and Recreation Department is no longer allowing parents to drop off and pick up their children for Zoo Education camp and activities without having to pay to get into Roeding Park. Ms. Gates stated that, for the last six years, parents who had children enrolled in any zoo education activities were provided with a pass into the park so that they did not have to pay the park entrance fee. This year, however, The City of Fresno is not honoring the passes. This will provide an extreme hardship on parents, not to mention the additional cost. Jerry Haines stated that, because of the under funding of the Parks and Recreation Department, it was important that no one be exempt of the fee. Mr. Haines added that he would discuss it further with Randy Cooper, Parks and Recreation Director.

Shelley Morrison shared that the computer company, Talahi, is requesting a \$300.00 a month fee for the zoo's website upkeep and maintenance. Up to date the company has provided the service free of charge. Morrison added that Ed Delany, owner of the company, has done a good job and has been very reliable and easy to work with. Attorney Tom Riggs stated that, because the item is not on the agenda, a vote cannot be made. The task of securing a webmaster, however, should fall under the charge of the director or interim director. Morrison, as the interim director, will make the final decision.

Mrs. Morrison also brought up the fact the some staff members have opted out of the medical insurance available through the corporation because they have insurance through another source. Some of these employees are requesting reimbursement from the corporation for their insurance premiums. The cost of the premiums is less than what the corporation would have to pay if the employee decided to enroll in the corporation's insurance plan. This item will be added to the next agenda for further discussion and a vote.

Mrs. Morrison stated that the Blackbaud computer program is up and running and some employees have had preliminary training. Morrison passed out a handout to the board showing an example of the program's capabilities.

Discuss CEO Selection: Lewis Greene, the new Fresno Chaffee Zoo Director, will be arriving in a few weeks. Rainwater and Levy will meet with Tom Riggs to go over the CEO contract.

Progress of Accreditation: Shelley Morrison spoke about the AZA Accreditation. The responses to the inspectors' report are in and she will find out the status of the accreditation during the AZA Conference at the end of March.

Treasurer's Report: Sheri Manning- Cartwright passed out a current Treasurer's report for everyone to review.

Retaining a CPA: Shelley Morrison made the suggestion that the FCZC board retain a CPA to handle auditing and financial statements. Morrison will research the process of putting out a request for proposals from CPA's specializing in non-profit organizations.

Discuss Joint Meeting with FCZA and FCZC: Tabled until next meeting.

City Insurance Obligation on Old Buildings: Tabled until next meeting.

Upcoming Zoo Events: Shari Rainwater and Sharon Levy are working with Jonatha Monetti in putting together Zoofari and Breakfast with the Animals.

Consider Directing Legal Counsel to Request Determination of Fair Political Practices Commission as to Applicability of Political Reform Act: Attorney Tom Riggs talked about whether or not the FCZC Board came under the California Political Reform Act. Riggs added that his opinion was that the act was not applicable to the corporation, but he suggested requesting an opinion from the Fair Political Practices Commission. Levy made a motion for Tom Riggs to apply for a ruling from the FPPC. Templeton seconded the motion. All members were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Participation in the Fresno County Zoo Authority Presenting Annual Reports to the Board of Supervisors: The FCZC board members had nothing to add to the annual report made by the Fresno County Zoo Authority to the Board of Supervisors.

New Board Member Selection: Rainwater shared that the board had interviewed 19 people. Each board member then shared their final selections and those with the most votes will fill the vacant positions. Those people are Colin Dougherty, Rogelio Arroyo, George Nokes and John Valentino.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Denise Buckley, Senior Secretary