

Potter Park Zoo Docent and Volunteer Association

Minutes of General Meeting, April 24, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President, Julie Brunner, at 6:32 p.m. on April 24, 2019 in the Safari Room at Potter Park Zoo in Lansing, MI. President Val Johnson was out of town.

Vice-President Brunner called for Board Reports:

- Member at Large, Jean Allison had nothing to report.
- Secretary, Roberta Gubbins, had nothing to report.
- Treasurer, Ed Pinheiro reported for February and March.

The Association will pay for the bench for the Garden, which was \$197 over the budget of \$900, the new volunteer management software and the AZADA conference. Jill Garnett spent \$1000 of the garden and beautification funds for a spider-web made of ropes for the garden. It is a climbing gym for children.

In answer to questions it was noted that 1) the Smile Funds from Amazon go to the Zoo Society not our organization; 2) roughly half of the docents have paid dues to join the association and 3) it was suggested that we send a message to the volunteers urging them to join.

The Treasurer's report was approved.

- Vice-President, Julie Brunner had nothing to report.
- Vice-President Brunner reported on behalf of President Johnson that the Butterfly Milkweed seeds are on sale for \$1.00 and that the August meeting will be a short business meeting followed by the potluck.

Old business:

Maresa Tedrick moved and Kate Wight seconded a motion to fund the overage of \$197 for the Pollinator Garden Bench. The motion passed.

New business:

Mariah Martinez explained the Sensory Bags developed by Kulture City and adopted by Potter Park Zoo to assist those with disabilities that interfere with their enjoyment of the Zoo. The bags contain headphones, fidget toys and a card to be used for non-verbal children. There is a training session on-line for all to take. There are ten bags available at the Welcome Center, which are free to use with the deposit of a driver's license. The bags are sanitized and checked for completeness when returned. It was suggested that the card for non-verbal persons be duplicated and available in the docent/volunteer lounge.

Jill Garnett reported that the enrichment will be held on Sunday, April 28th from 1 to 3. There will be paper-mache enrichment for the animals and stations throughout the Zoo as well as conservation information. Jill showed the group a bronze plaque for Herman, the white donkey whose "interviews" with a reporter helped start the precursor organization to the Zoo Society. The Centennial committee is meeting to make plans for our 100th year celebration in 2020.

Jennifer gave hours volunteered pins to those who missed the dinner last month.

Jennifer and Kelly went through the tutorial for the new volunteer management software. The tutorial is available on line and in paper copy for those who prefer paper.

Dennis asked that docents check for red card on the enclosure of the education animals and the white board re: animals that can't be used.

Dennis brought us up to date on the animals at the zoo:

1. Dopssee is doing well; next hormone report is due in 10 days or so. If all goes well, Rhino encounters will stop in the fall. We will keep the baby at least two years, maybe three.
2. Meeko, the moose, passed his recent physical. The process to adopt another moose this summer has begun.
3. Wayne the Ant-eater has some eating issues.
4. Chinchillas are in the classroom for training. We will probably breed our female chinchilla.
5. Rats are doing great and should be used.
6. Snakes—need to increase the number of our education snakes; rainbow boa is back up and should be ready to go next week. Public should not touch snakes.
7. Animals coming and going:
 - a. We are getting 2 young female Penguins and 1 old male—potential breeding.
 - b. Young Otter went to Hutchison Zoo in Kansas where his grandparents live. Both young otters are gone and the remaining adults are displaying mating behavior and are approved for parenting.
 - c. Two young Tree Shrews are leaving.
 - d. Our male Red Panda will probably leave in the fall—have approval to breed with new male.
8. Trumpeter Hornbills will be out of quarantine soon. They will be in the Feline/Primate house.
9. Ravens are laying eggs which, because we don't want babies, are being removed and hard boiled and replaced. They may be allowed to breed next year.
10. Cotton-top Tamarins are about to be parents—May affect the use of the building during Spring Fling.
11. Snow Leopard—4-year-old male will be picked up from Brookfield Zoo on May first. He has been in quarantine at his present zoo so he will be on display as soon as he is acclimated to our zoo.
12. Male Binturong being tested for breeding ability.

Our next meeting is June 26th. Meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta Gubbins
Secretary