

Potter Park Zoo Docent and Volunteer Association

Membership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 25, 2017



The meeting began at 6:40 p.m. with Zookeeper Jennifer Higgins speaking about Magellanic penguins.

Keeper Talks

Keeper Jennifer Higgins spoke about working with the Magellanic penguins at Potter Park Zoo. Topics included nesting habits in the wild and in captivity, some of the current issues with reproduction, steps to counter those issues, and success with preventing respiratory fungal infection. Donations of fake leaves for nesting materials are welcome. Jennifer will take new or used leaves.

https://www.amazon.com/Assorted-Colored-Artificial-Weddings-Decorating/dp/B01LXK9J3B/ref=sr_1_4?ie=UTF8&qid=1509305631&sr=8-4&keywords=faux+fall+leaves

Minutes from September 27, 2017, were approved.

Treasurer Ed Pinheiro highlighted fundraising success. Treasurer's report was approved.

Committee Updates

Enrichment Committee, Jill Garrett

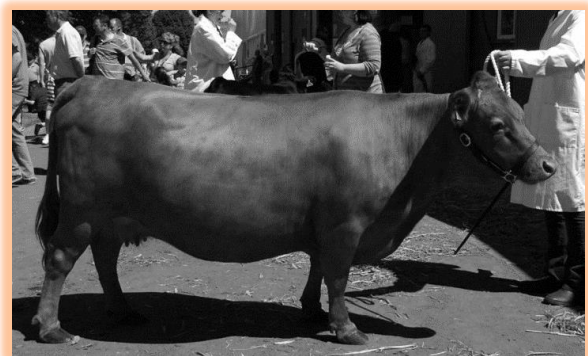
Upcoming Event: Pumpkin Fest on November 5th, from 1:00 – 3:00.

Old Business

- Head Keeper Sarah is collecting any kind of perfume and spices for animal enrichment. We want to clarify that it is ok if the perfume is older but they would like the spices to be unopened and from the list that Kayla provided. There is a collection box in the lounge.
- Bottle drive is on-going.
- Vice President Val Johnson encouraged everyone to participate in fund raising activities during Winter Wonderland of Lights.
- **Bylaws:** After discussion, the new Bylaws were approved with revisions to Issues and Resolutions.
- Fundraising Project: Dexter cow for barnyard was winner of vote for fundraising project.* The expected cost is \$1500.

**The Dexter cow is favored as PPZ's first American Heritage animal because of small size. From the Livestock Conservancy: "Many of America's once-common farm animals face extinction if we do not take action now." Learn more about this important initiative at:*

<https://livestockconservancy.org/>



Or search the Web for American Heritage Farms or Livestock.

Staff Reports

Jennifer Horvatin

- Sign-up sheets are available for FALCONERS, Programs, Big Zoo lessons.
- Zoo in Your Neighborhood sign up is available at Volunteer Sign Up. You can access Volunteer Sign-up from the new Falcon Nest.
- FALCONERS –November 4th theme will be Getting Ready for Winter. The December 5th program will be Winter Wonderland of Lights.
- Winter Wonderland of Lights sign up will include animal handling and association table.
- Wine & Stein will be on December 6th.
- Docent Manual Dividers have been found for anyone who wants them.
- Cindy Beck will be collecting bathroom tissue rolls to make binoculars at International Migratory Bird Day.
- Zoo has a new Website. The new address for the Falcon Nest is www.potterparkzoo.org/the-falcon-nest
- Andrea Hunter has set up a wordpress page with individual animal data sheets available for easy access from any device. The address is ppzdocentmanual.wordpress.com.

Dennis Laidler

- From AZA Conference: Terminology Matters. Median Life Expectancy will replace Life Span.
- The conference was held in Indianapolis, which allowed us to visit former PPZ resident Tombi. Though she has never had a calf, she has become an auntie that is uniquely talented at helping with elephant calves of all ages.
- Cheetah Talk had a good turnout. Fifty-five people attended.
- Mini-grants may be available to the PPZDVA as a 501C.
- There was a great turnout for the Falconers Boo at the Zoo, with 140 attendees.
- Gina King (docent class of 2003) passed away on September 29th after a long and valiant battle with cancer. Gina was a wonderful, long-serving docent who was extremely passionate about animals. She loved doing tours –especially for the BIG Zoo lesson classes. Her favorite animals here at the zoo were the rhinos.
- We also want to express our condolences to Maresa Tedrick. Maresa's parents have both recently passed away. Please keep her and her family in your thoughts.
- After giving us over 22 years of being an awesome docent, Diana Lett is retiring. Diana and her husband Steve are heading north to enjoy their retirement and Friday, October 27, 2017 will be her last day. Appropriately, Diana will finish her last stint as a docent doing her favorite tour, "Exhibit Design."
- Animal Updates.

Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2017, 6:30 pm at the Zoo.

Respectfully submitted:

Cynthia Holt, Secretary