

Potter Park Zoo Docent and Volunteer Association
Membership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 22, 2017

The meeting of the Potter Park Zoo Docent and Volunteer Association began with a talk by Jing Zhou, a Master's Degree Candidate in Zoology at Michigan State University. Zhou is concentrating on the design of suitable and sustaining environments for zoo exhibits. She shared her experiences at the Giant Panda Sanctuary in China. She also showed us her design for a visitor and animal friendly Red Panda exhibit.

The meeting was called to order by President Diane Rigotti at 7:42 pm.

President Rigotti asked for motions to approve our February minutes. Maresa Tedrick moved to approve the March minutes, Jan Morrow seconded; the motion carried.

Ed Pinheiro presented the Treasurers Report. Cynthia Holt moved and Jan Morrow seconded that the Treasurer's Report be approved. The Motion passed and the report was approved.

Old Business

New Docent Manuals:

The new docent manuals are available. The cost--\$35.00 with binder, \$28.00 without. Pres. Rigotti moved: PPZDVA will pay 50% of the unbound manual cost for 2017 dues paying members. Kayla Stomack seconded.

Discussion followed. Susan Andrews suggested that we offer a scholarship for those who can't afford the additional cost. Following discussion, Pres. Rigotti withdrew her original motion and moved: I move to pay 50% of the unbound manual cost for 2017 dues paying members with the understanding that the remainder of the cost will be paid by the docents. Cynthia Holt seconded. The Motion carried.

Susan Andrews moved to add \$140 extra to our cost for 10 dues paying docents who apply for the full cost. Sarah Steinhour seconded. The Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Book Club: No report

Conservation: The committee is in need of a chairperson.

Enrichment: Jill Garnett announced that Party for the Planet will be April 29th.

By-Law Committee: Pres. Rigotti announced that according to the by-laws, the committee needs to be re-activated. Val Johnson volunteered to be chair, if no other volunteers, the committee will default to the new officer boards.

Our new Officers were sworn in by Sarah Steinhour. Val Johnson was present by Skype.

President – Kayla Stomack
Vice President – Val Johnson
Treasurer – Ed Pinheiro
Secretary – Cynthia Holt
Member-at-large – Julie Brunner

New President Kayla Stomack took over the meeting.

Staff Reports

Jennifer Horvatin:

Jennifer announced the following events:

April 22nd is Volunteer Day; it is sponsored by Comcast who will donating money for each volunteer the Zoo provides; we will be performing maintenance on the zoo in anticipation of our Accreditation.

April 14th—Night at the Museum—activities re: bats.

April 18th is Docent Appreciation Dinner – invitations will be sent.

Zookampi Registration is open.

Dennis Laidler:

The new zoo hours begin April 1—the zoo will be open from 9 to 6 until Oct. 1. On Fridays the zoo will be open until 8.

Accreditation is this year. Our inspection will be around June 15th.

Animal Updates -

Kangaroos are arriving: This week we have had the arrival of four red kangaroos from the St. Louis Zoo and a grey kangaroo from the L.A. Zoo. They will take over the old hoof stock exhibit space (Oryx/ostrich and then interim moose).

Binturongs: Our female binturong arrived and the male will be arriving soon.

Black Rhino: The logistics are mostly worked out, and it now looks we our new male rhino will be arriving in early April.

Meerkats: We will be receiving a new colony of meerkats (4 males and a female) from Disney Animal Kingdom.

Seba' Fruit Bats: Zookeepers and maintenance staff are working to create an enlarged and completely remodeled fruit bat exhibit. Once completed, it will be able to house nearly double the number of animals.

Penguins: one of our penguins is leaving and we are getting a male and female from Sea world.

Asian Spiney Turtle is leaving.

Eagle Owl—a female is coming.

Education Animals: There are several changes in the works with our education animal collection. Staff is currently working on locating appropriate animals.

There was no other business and the meeting ended at 9:15 pm.

Our next meeting will be on April 26th at 7:00 pm at the Zoo.

Respectfully submitted:

Roberta M. Gubbins, Secretary