

Potter Park Zoo Docent and Volunteer Association
Membership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 27, 2018

The meeting of the Potter Park Zoo Docent and Volunteer Association was called to order by President Val Johnson at 6:35? pm. The meeting was held in the Safari Room at Potter Park Zoo.

Guest Speaker:

Ashleigh (zoo keeper) provided an update on the rhino breeding between Doppsee and Phineas.

- Phineas traveled from Texas to breed with Doppsee. He came out of his crate upset and it took awhile for him to get used to everyone. He arrived in April 2017.
- Breeding was attempted in October 29, 2017 and there was a lot of aggressive behavior. This is typical of rhino breeding patterns.
- A formal breeding plan was written. And breeding has happened on May 11th, June 5th and this week.
- The plan is to keep putting them together until they are not interested in breeding. If they are not interested then she could be pregnant.
- Pregnancy can't be confirmed for three months after breeding. Her hormone levels will be monitored through fecals.
- Pregnancy lasts 15 to 16 months. The calf will weigh about 60 to 80 pounds at birth. The calf will stay with mom for about 2 years.

Board Reports

President: Bowling for Rhinos is on August 3rd from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Ina's resignation letter was circulated. (She was at the meeting.) There will be a memorial lunch for Diane Rigotti on July 15th. Friends of Julie Vallier are planning at memorial on either July 13th or July 20th.

Vice President: Provided an update on the web page. It will be shown at the next meeting (or rather the meeting after next since the next meeting is the potluck).

Treasurer: With income, expenses, etc. the present balance is \$5818.59. The Heritage Cow Fund has \$2226.38 and the the cows are coming soon. The Library and Archive Fund has \$436.89 and we are getting proposals for Zoo in Your Neighborhood. The report was accepted by the membership.

Secretary: No report as Deb was not in attendance. (There will be two reports at the next meeting.)

Member-at-Large: A trip to the Wilds in Cumberland, OH is planned for August 4th. The cost per person is \$25. A tour of the Wilds is planned for 11:00 am and will last about 2.5 hours. The plan is to carpool down. The drive takes about 5.5 hours. For those interested in staying overnight, a list of hotels will also be sent with the email to members about the trip.

New and Old Business

Please bring plates, cloth napkins, etc for use at the zoo.

Docent garden – This is not being maintained. The membership voted to return the garden to the zoo. Arielle accepted it and it will become the volunteer garden.

Enrichment Committee: Summer enrichments are underway on Wednesdays and Sundays. The next event is “Chillin with the Animals.”

Animal Handling: Jennifer and Dennis demonstrated how to put up a tent covering for an outdoor program. (This was done indoors and no animals were used in the demonstration.)

Staff Reports

Jennifer Horvatin:

This is short notice but there are sign-up sheets for rhino watch. Just a reminder, check the program schedules because docents (and some volunteers) are needed for upcoming events.

Dennis Laidler:

Animal Updates -

- There is re-arrangement of animals happening in the bird and reptile house. The golden lion tamarins are at one end and cotton top tamarins are at the other end among other changes.
- For the otters, they may try and introduce Miles to the pups and mom so everyone can be together.
- The anteater exhibit renovation is complete. They are still working on the patio by the anteater.

Program Animals -

- A snowy owl is in quarantine. He lost an eye and has some other minor injuries that are still healing due to a car accident.
- There are new rats.
- There are sea lampreys for education. These are shared with the DNR.

Dr. Sally is leaving to be a Smithsonian Fellow. An interim doctor has been helping.

Education Program and Grants – There is money for capital improvements and computer software probably covering 90% of costs.

Zooporady – Winner Karen Kline

The next meeting which is the potluck is on July 25th at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Julie L. Brunner for

Deb Cadle
Secretary