

Potter Park Zoo Docent and Volunteer Association

Membership Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 23 2017



The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with approval of minutes from June 28, 2017, and approval of the Treasurer's report.

Guest Speaker

Dr. Sally spoke about her involvement with Projeto Tamanduá (Anteater Project) in Brazil. Dr. Sally came to PPZ from the Nashville Zoo, which maintained a giant anteater population of 11 to 16. She is the AZA SSP veterinarian advisor for the giant anteater, and was able to share many interesting facts about this animal.

Projeto Tamanduá Brasil <http://tamandua.org>

With colleagues in Brazil, Dr. Sally joins field studies of wild giant anteaters. Much research is done on the Pantanal, the most diverse wetlands in the world. On the ranches of the Pantanal, wildlife cohabitates with cattle and ecotourism is promoted.

Giant anteaters are solitary, only coming together for mating and mothers with their young. In Brazil, they are considered bad luck, and vehicular death is a common sight on the roadways. These reasons make the study and education important.

Introductions

- Arielle Creps. New volunteer coordinator.

Committee Updates

Enrichment Committee, Jill Garrett

- Committee has transitioned to the school year enrichment schedule.
- Upcoming Events
 - International Red Panda Day celebration at the zoo / Saturday, September 30th / There will be 2 shifts, 11:00 – 1:00 and 1:00 – 3:00
 - Tailgate with the Animals / Sunday, October 1st

New Business

- Head Keeper, Sarah, is collecting any kind of perfume and spices for animal enrichment. There is a collection box in the lounge.
- Glitter Tattoo Demo after meeting.
- Zoo Brew, photo booth scheduled. Help needed.
- Pizza House Fundraiser: September 12th, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. With coupon, 15% of bill will be donated.
- World Rhino Day celebration, September 17th. Help needed for sale of hats and small stuffed rhinos.
- Bottle Drive – Deb Cadle, pop cans will be continually collected until otherwise noted. Please bring them to the meetings.
- Web page update – Katie Licht is drafting content.
- AZAD Update, Katie Licht – Next conference is in October. Will include round table discussions. Next conference will be held in April, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Old Business

- Docent Garden – please sign up.
- Keeper Appreciation – Thanks to Val, Georgia, Sue, and Heather for bringing goodies.
- Binder Park Trip – 52 attended, collection taken for boomer ball. Thanks to Kayla for organizing.
- Conservation Project: Project ideas pending.

Staff Reports

Dennis Laidler

- Thank you to July potluck attendees.
- July Falconers had good attendance. Working to spread the concept community wide and expand to all children with challenges.
- Overnight Falconers is scheduled.
- Grants for new program: Attendance does not match demographics of community. Possible solutions may include visits to community centers and libraries, passes that can be checked out at the library, reading with the animals at the library. The goal is to engage the urban population.
- We had 3 awesome interns this summer and are interviewing fall interns. There will be a fall docent class for interns.
- Some animals have been missed on check-out. Always check out animals.
- Don't correct other docents in public. It's not polite.
- Animal updates.

Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 27, 2017, 7:00 pm at the Zoo.

Respectfully submitted:

Cynthia Holt, Secretary