

Potter Park Zoo Docent and Volunteer Association

Minutes of General Meeting, June 26, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President, Val Johnson, at 6:35 p.m. on June 26, 2019 in the Safari Room at Potter Park Zoo in Lansing, MI.

President Johnson turned the meeting over to Dr. Ronan Eustace, our Veterinarian. He began discussing his background. He is Canadian and has been a zoo vet for six years. He is hoping to find support to build a new hospital for our zoo. He answered questions:

1. Meeko the Moose has a cancer on his leg which is being treated. He's doing okay and is on anti-biotics for an infection and aspirin (topical) for pain. There is no way to give him an MRI or CT scan to see if the cancer has spread. There is high probability of the cancer spreading.
2. Doppsee the Black Rhino is doing well. The Ultra-sound is not strong enough to see the fetus. He wants to get a more powerful ultra-sound to monitor the fetus. She is very cooperative.
3. Because he has a part-time technician, he has no set schedule for procedures as was done in the past. Once a full-time technician is hired, that may change.
4. The third cotton-top baby died from pneumonia. She was being hand-raised as the mother couldn't raise three. He wants to expand the exhibit to allow the cotton-tops to get more sunshine. He explained that hand-rearing is difficult and testing a tiny animal can be dangerous for the animal.
5. He has a wish-list but the problem is space to store what he finds. Right now, he needs electric cautery's, x-ray plates for teeth and a probe for Doppsee and other large animals. The better the equipment the better the care for the animals.
6. The new snow leopard is slowly becoming acclimated. One of the problems is the route he must take to go outside, which passes by other big cats.
7. The Red Pandas have been approved for breeding so the female is no longer being contracepted. Might take a year to become pregnant.
8. Susan, the Mandrill, is diabetic. She won't stand for injections of insulin so we are looking for other solutions. Loco is very old and arthritic but breeds Susan—when that stops, a decision may have to be made. What happens when one of them dies is up in the air. The problem for this breed is the amount of holding space in the cold months.
9. Euthanasia policy is set by SSP. The quality of life is the basis for making a decision to euthanize. Necropsy results are sent to SSP.

President Johnson welcomed new member, Mark, to the group.

President Johnson called for Board Reports:

- Member at Large, Jean Allison had nothing to report.
- Secretary, Roberta Gubbins, asked that the minutes of the April meeting be approved. They were approved by a call for a vote. It was asked that we remind the group to read the minutes.
- Treasurer, Ed Pinheiro reported for April and May.  
The pollinator garden bench has been installed. Bird Day income not as much due to the storm cutting the day short. \$1000 was spent to pay for the spider-web structure, which needs to be installed by a playground installer so bids are being solicited.  
In answer to questions it was noted that 1) we have 300 docents and volunteers who have donated time this year, there are about 90 docents; 60 volunteers and docents have paid dues. The Treasurer's report was approved.
- Vice-President, Julie Brunner had nothing to report.
- President Johnson noted that the Butterfly Milkweed seeds are on sale for \$1.00 and that the August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a short business meeting followed by the potluck.

Old business: None

New business: None

**Jennifer** reported that:

- Zookambi almost filled. Raising the price didn't affect the number of participants.
- There are new ceiling fans which should be left on; there are also de-humidifiers which can be turned off during presentations but please turn back on at Medium.
- Better Impact software is being accepted. She thanked those who signed up. She answered questions re: problems—a description of the event is on Falcon Nest not on Better Impact—she is trying to fix that.

President Johnson reported that Spring fling snacks were donated by the Association.

**Kelly**, volunteer coordinator, reported that:

Potawatomi zoo volunteers are planning to come here for a visit on July 13<sup>th</sup>. She is looking for volunteers or docents to host them. Arriving around 11 am, there will be about 10 in the group.

She needs tour guides for a tour at 10:30 on Sunday, June 30.

**Jill Garnett** reported on enrichment. Our next event is Just Chillin on July 20. Enrichment plans are being made. She also reported on the Centennial, which is next year. A schedule of plans for the year is being developed. She wants to collect stories from zoo visitors on their experiences at the Zoo. Wants volunteers for Tuesday and Wednesdays, from 9 to 1.

Jennifer reported on the animals.

The screech owl has had jesses removed because he is molting so should not be used. Oslo is on very limited schedule. In response to questions, snakes are not touchable, hands must be washed with soap and water after handling snakes. Touching of animals depends on group and circumstances. Rats are not touchable right now because they can bite but still not sure of policy.

Birds can be taken to outside events but remember, they are a flight-risk. Visitors can take peacock feathers but discourage it since must be stored in freezer for two weeks to kill any mites. The amphitheater will not be used this summer. It was suggested that binturong box be a lighter color so the animal can be seen.

The emus are on exhibit. The ant-eater is off exhibit occasionally due to digestive problems. He ate a mouse.

President Johnson mentioned plastic reduction such as washable zip lock bags and reduce use of bottles and other plastic items. **Be the solution to plastic pollution. (Was on bird day shirts)**

Our next meeting is August 28<sup>th</sup>. Meeting adjourned at 8:04.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Roberta Gubbins*  
Secretary