

**Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Corporation**  
**July 7, 2005**  
**MINUTES**

**Present**

Cheryl Assemi (via phone)  
David Cowin  
Sheri Manning-Cartwright  
Shari Rainwater  
Tom Templeton  
Mike Woods  
Jay Weed

**Absent**

Sharon Levy  
Shari Rainwater

**Guests**

Laura Barnard  
Bruce Campbell  
Larry Green  
Christy Harvey  
Susan Karby  
Dr. Sue Lynch  
Shelley Morrison  
Harold Mountan  
CA Sharp

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m..

**AGENDA:** There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

**MINUTES:** It was moved and seconded (Cowin/Woods) to accept the minutes from the May 5, 2005 and June 2, 2005 meetings with no modifications. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Susan Karby congratulated the board members for their selection of a new CEO/Zoo Director, Donna Fernandez.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Weed stated he is in the planning stages of a news conference with Donna Fernandez and David McDonald for next Friday, July 15, between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. Fernandez will be at the Zoo working with Shelley Morrison all day July 15. Weed stated that all board members are invited to attend.

**ZOO REPORT:** Morrison reported the accreditation materials have been gathered together and will be mailed to Fernandez for her review prior to her visit next Friday. Morrison has had several opportunities to speak to Fernandez. The accreditation documentation is work in progress, but is mostly complete. There are a few details to add in addition to information on Fernandez. Zoo attendance has been good, though it is dropping off with the hotter weather. There have been several meetings with City personnel, Karby, Cowin, and the survey team regarding the utilities, water saturation, and other elements of the survey.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Weed reported Donna Fernandez was hired by the City of Fresno and will transition over to Fresno's Chaffee Zoo, Corporation once they take over operation of the Zoo. Her wage with the City is less than it will be with the Corporation, but she will be reimbursed those wages once the transition is made. Due to the media in Buffalo announcing the loss of Donna Fernandez by the Buffalo Zoo and her move to the Chaffee Zoo, the board determined an announcement should be made to the Chaffee Zoo staff that Fernandez would be the new Zoo Director. On June 24, a news release was sent to the media regarding the hiring of Fernandez and Weed met with Chaffee Zoo staff to make the announcement. The Corporation has received tax exempt status retroactive to the submission date in March 2005. Insurance quotes will be discussed in a closed session meeting immediately following the board meeting. On June 9, Cowin and Weed met with members of the Fresno Chaffee Zoo Authority and everyone seems to be working very well together.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Cowin reported there is a balance of \$8,100 in the FCZC account. Templeton questioned when the tax funds will become available to the Corporation. Weed stated funds would be distributed once FCZC takes over operation of the Zoo or possibly, if they can show the expense would directly benefit the Zoo. Cowin stated the first Measure Z payment of \$701,000 has been received by the Authority and \$26,000 has been expensed for election cost reimbursement.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:** Manning-Cartwright was contacted by North Fresno Rotary requesting the FCZC participate in their Oktoberfest this fall. Unfortunately, the date they selected conflicts with the already scheduled ZooBoo. They are very eager to work with the Zoo and hope to have our participation next year.

**TRANSITION COMMITTEE:** Woods stated meetings with the City are scheduled for every other week, but they have been meeting weekly for the last three weeks. Lots of time has been put in regarding the lease negotiations. The City's attitude is good and they are making progress. Fernandez, as a City employee, will not be able to participate in the lease negotiations.

Assemi questioned whether she should progress with the Zoo flyers with the name and logo as it is currently, or if she should wait to see if the Zoo's name is changed to Fresno's Chaffee Zoo before printing. Woods stated formal action by the board would be needed to institute a name change. Assemi will place this discussion on the agenda for the August 4, 2005 board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

The board then moved into an executive session.

Respectfully submitted  
Christy Harvey