

**Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Corporation
October 6, 2005
MINUTES**

Present

Cheryl Assemi
David Cowin
Sharon Levy
Sheri Manning-Cartwright
Shari Rainwater
Tom Templeton
Jay Weed
Mike Woods

Absent

Manuel Ferreira

Guests

Bruce Campbell
Jean Chaffee
Lisa Condoian
Donna Fernandes
Larry Green
Christy Harvey
Susan Karby
Joe Levy
Lyn Myers
Sandy Pitts
CA Sharp
Emory Wishon

Meeting called to order at 5:40 p.m.

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

MINUTES: It was moved and seconded (Woods/Cowin) to approve the minutes from the September 7, 2005 board meeting. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Karby stated ZooBoo will be held October 22 and letters will be mailed to the board asking if they would like to attend. Templeton noted a new docent class begins October 7th.

ZOO REPORT: Fernandes stated three Chaffee Zoo staff members attended the AZA Conference. The Zoo received a letter from the AZA stating they have received the Zoo's accreditation materials. The Zoo will be contacted between November and January for the inspection. Materials on the new organization will be presented to the accreditation committee members when they come for the inspection. Fernandes has been working on a combined City/Zoo Society/Zoolynx budget. Workers Comp insurance will be much more expensive as the City was self-insured. The City spent \$25,000 per year on workers comp and the quote Fernandes received from AON was \$139,000. Medical insurance will also be higher. The Zoo is currently on the City's phone and computer system and will need to purchase replacement systems. Fernandes has polled the Zoo staff regarding returning to the previous Toucan logo for the Zoo. Many zoos have a tiger logo and it is not unique. Fernandes may test logos with visitors and especially children. Weed suggested Fernandes consult with Blair Looney. Manning-Cartwright stated she has heard of concern from the Zoo staff regarding their benefit package under the new corporation. She urged those who may be in contact with Zoo staff to show extreme sensitivity to the situation of the Zoo's employees. Weed noted it is not appropriate for Corporation board members to discuss compensation packages with the City employees. The City is talking to their staff. Manning-Cartwright stated the Zoo needs some continuity of staff and the Corporation needs to make their package attractive enough to retain employees.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Weed reported Cowin has been spending enormous amounts of time on the transition and things are moving along well.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Cowin stated there is a balance of approximately \$12,600 in the FCZC account and approximately \$3 million of Measure Z funds on deposit with Fresno County as of the end of September.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND FUNDRAISING: Manning-Cartwright stated this committee is waiting to be useful. They would be very interested in helping with the logo selection.

FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE: No report.

TRANSITION COMMITTEE: Woods introduced Emory Wishon who is helping draft the lease document which will be presented during the meeting's executive session. A letter has been received from Jerry Dyer, Chief of Police, stating that the Police Department will locate a sub station at Belmont and Teilman.

It was suggested minutes from the Corporation meeting be posted on the fresnozoo.org website.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

The board then moved into an executive session.

Respectfully submitted
Christy Harvey

The meeting reconvened at 8:30 PM.

Present

Cheryl Assemi
David Cowin
Sharon Levy
Sheri Manning-Cartwright
Shari Rainwater
Tom Templeton
Jay Weed
Mike Woods

Absent

Manuel Ferreira

Guests

Shari Rainwater made a motion to hold a special session at 6PM Tuesday October 11. Mike Woods seconded it.

Unanimous pass.

Shari Rainwater made a motion that if the budget is in place by this meeting, Donna Fernandez, or Jay Weed could write a letter to the Zoo Tax Authority advising them of our predicament and plan to obtain and close a loan, as well as to request a special meeting to request Measure Z funds to cover start up costs.

Second by Mike Woods.

It was decided that Sheri Manning Cartwright would draft the letter.

Dave stated he would quit as treasurer if the letter were sent to the Zoo Tax Authority.

Cheryl Assemi questioned the need for a loan if tax money is sitting with the Zoo Tax Authority.

Dave wants to close the loan as an insurance policy and would quit as treasurer if the loan were not closed.

Cheryl Assemi asked for an assurance that the loan would only be used if funds were not available from the Zoo Tax Authority because of timing and that no funds would be drawn for any expenses other than those approved by the Zoo Tax Authority.

Dave assured everyone that those would be the only conditions under which the money would be drawn.

Dave wants to have the budget available by the October 26 meeting of the Zoo Tax Authority to ask for its approval.

Sharon Levy wants to request that the Zoo Tax Authority expedite funds at the October 26th meeting.

Sheri Manning-Cartwright said that she could not support the loan until more efforts were made to work with the Zoo Tax Authority to expedite funding.

Dave informed us that members of the Zoo Tax Authority have stated that they would approve funds only after a budget has been approved and a lease agreement is in place with the city.

Dave feels this is a very economical loan and should be in place regardless of Measure Z money because of timing problems with the Zoo Tax Authority.

Cheryl Assemi excused herself from the meeting.

Shari Rainwater made a motion to draft the letter to the Zoo Tax Authority. Sheri Manning-Cartwright seconded it.

The vote was 4 – 3 in favor of the letter.

Shari Rainwater made a motion for Dave Cowin to follow through with the loan application. Tom Templeton seconded it.

The vote was 6 – 1 in favor.

Tom Templeton moved to authorize the transition committee to authorize the lease.

Shari Rainwater seconded it. The vote was 7 - 0 in favor.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Cheryl Assemi