



General Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Fresno Chaffee Zoo Education Building  
Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 5:30 pm

**DRAFT**

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Public Present</b>
Cates, Chelsea	Present	Goldman, Brian	None
Dougherty, Colin	Present	Revis, Jessica	
Gonzalez, Ed	Present	Nodolf, Shannon	
Nokes, George	Present		
Price, Ken	Present		
Richards, Tom	Absent		
Saladino, Craig	Present		
Valentino, John	Present		
Rainwater, Shari	Present		
<b>Advisory</b>			
Scott Barton	Present	<b>Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Corp Legal Counsel</b>	
Dorothy Fortune	Present	Doug Larsen – Present	

**Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m.:** Board Chair, John Valentino called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call:** Board Directors Dougherty, Nokes, Rainwater, Price, Cates, Gonzalez, Saladino, and Valentino all present. Board Director Richards absent. Advisors CEO Barton and Mrs. Fortune present. Legal Counsel Mr. Larsen present.

**Approval of Minutes:** Director Valentino called for review of the minutes from January 18, 2017 and a motion to approve. Director Nokes asked if Mrs. Sharon Levy was present at the January meeting. Executive Assistant, Jessica Revis, stated that she was not. Director Nokes stated the January minutes stated she was present. Ms. Revis stated she would revise the minutes. Director Dougherty so called for a motion to approve the January minutes with the revision of Ms. Levy's presence. Director Rainwater seconded. Director Price abstained as he was not present for that meeting. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Chair Report:** Director Valentino stated that he did not have anything to report at this time. He deferred to the CEO's report.

**CEO Report:** CEO Scott Barton stated the attendance has been down due to the amount of rain we have received in the last couple months. He stated that expenses are also down. CEO Barton stated that special events and giraffe feeding are doing very well this year. The baby rhino is now on the savannah at the African Adventure exhibit. CEO Barton stated the zoo would submit for two AZA awards this year. The first would be the exhibit award for African Adventure, and the second is the marketing award for the zoo's commercial. CEO Barton stated the California Classic turnout was great, and quite a few people were able to run through the zoo as part of the event. CEO Barton stated that Dr. Shannon Nodolf would update the board on Amy's condition, but stated that they have seen successful breeding from the other two African elephants. CEO Barton stated that parking plans are still on-going. There was an issue with the engineers estimate, and the amount that was initially proposed was doubled. The engineering firm apologized for their error and is working to resolve this issue with the zoo.

**Review, Discuss, and Consider Zoo Master Plan Update:** CEO Barton reviewed the Master Plan presentation with the Board. He stated that from 2004 to 2016 the zoo completed several projects including, African Adventure, Sea Lion Cove, and the Roo Walkabout. They also did renovations to the Reptile Building, and added the Stingray Bay experience. This year the Zoo is looking to expand the Dino Dig area, improve the Peccary exhibit, and build the



Water Play Area, as well as the Warthog exhibit. In 2018 the zoo is looking to add the Animal Nutrition Center, a new and improved parking area, as well as an Education Animal Building. CEO Barton stated that in 2019 the new Asia area would be completed. They will soon be in design for that project. The idea is to create a new exhibit for the Malaysian tigers, and the sloth bears. He stated that they are looking to place other Asian animals in that area as well. CEO Barton that 2020 and beyond would then consist of the African River project and possibly a new front entrance. He mentioned that those are larger projects that would extend into the end of the current Measure Z in 2024. CEO Barton stated that a few other potential projects post 2024 could be new entry area exhibits, an African forest, a new education building, and/or a parking structure. Director Nokes asked what size the warthog exhibit would be. CEO Barton stated it would be about one half of an acre. CEO Barton stated he would send the Board a written copy of the master plan once it was printed. Director Nokes asked where the Conservation building project would be in the plan. CEO Barton stated that they are currently working on funding for that project. Director Gonzalez asked about the timeline for completing the parking additions. CEO Barton stated he has a meeting with the City of Fresno tomorrow. Director Nokes stated there was not a sign at the current Peccary exhibit.

**Review, Discuss, and Consider FCZ Veterinarian Update:** Dr. Shannon Nodolf, Chief Veterinary Officer, state that the past 12 months have been full of excitement across the board at the Fresno Chaffee Zoo. She stated that her presentation is a brief review of some of the events that were exciting because they were first time procedures at FCZ, and some of them were first time procedures to be done anywhere. Dr. Nodolf displayed an x-ray photo of Big Sur and Ariel's stomachs. The images showed large masses in their abdomen. After a successful endoscopic procedure, they were able to remove most items from both animals. They also found out that Big Sur is actually a female, and not a male. Dr. Nodolf stated that UC Davis visits the zoo annually to check the Stingray and Sharks. This year they successfully completed the zoo's first ever string ray cesarean. The Zoo also completed the first ever elephant joint injection procedure. The zoo hosted two surgeons from the University of Colorado to assist with the injection, as well as assistance from the zoo's elephant team. They used a radiograph generator, a processor, lead apron, and emergency air bags. The team used extreme caution and were able to successfully complete the ultrasound guided point injection. They inserted Amy's elbow with hyaluronic acid joint lubricant and triamcinolone. Dr. Nodolf stated the goal is to counteract inflammatory protein interleukin-1 that is produced in the joint during inflammation by blocking its receptor site. Blood is collected and incubated in a special media that stimulates production of the antagonist protein. After incubation (>24hrs) the blood is placed in centrifuge to separate plasma from blood cells. Plasma containing the antagonist protein is then injected in the affected joint. She stated that Amy's blood being added to specialized IRAP media to selectively grow antagonist proteins. Dr. Nodolf stated the next steps could potentially be Stem cell therapy. Stem cells are immature cells that are not yet programmed for a specific task in the body, and are adaptable and capable of becoming different types of cells to help repair damaged tissues that often cannot repair themselves. These cells can be harvested from blood, fat, bone marrow, or umbilicus. She stated that after harvest the cells are cultured and grown in a laboratory and then are reintroduced into the animal where they fill the gaps of needed healing cells. Dr. Nodolf stated that the veterinarian department is hand rearing a baby Peccary, due to him having contracted tendons in his hind left foot. Unfortunately, when we attempted to return this baby after investigating his leg defect his mother was no longer interested in caring for him. Multiple attempts were made to reintroduce the two but to no avail. The difficult decision was made to hand rear. Dr. Nodolf stated that for the first time in FCZ history they welcomed new baby Green Aracari, Radiated Tortoise, and Six-Banded Armadillo. The Zoo also welcomed a new baby rhino and lion. Dr. Nodolf thanked her team at the FCZ for all of its help in making the past year so successful.

**Review, Discuss, and Consider FCZ Finance Committee Update:** Director Saladino stated the Finance committee approved all contracts listed on the agenda unanimously, with the exception of the Pepsi proposal. He stated that he abstained from discussion and approval of the Pepsi proposal. Director Saladino stated there is a correction to the Program Animal contract, it states the amount to be approved is \$182,082.32 and it should be \$158,980.32. He also stated that the Animal Nutrition Center was only approved for \$100,000 at this time. Director Valentino



called for a motion to approve all contracts as proposed by Director Saladino and the Finance committee. Director Dougherty so moved to approve. Director Saladino seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Review, Discuss and Consider Financial Report:** CFO Goldman presented the Board with the February financial report. He stated that the attendance is currently down about 36%, and that March consisted of several rainy weekends. CFO Goldman stated the self-generated revenue of \$877,449 compared to budgeted revenue of \$1,156,117. This excluded the investment income or unrealized gain/loss on investments. He stated the zoo currently has a surplus of \$26,960, compared to a budgeted deficit of \$146,469. CFO Goldman stated this includes the entry for accrued payroll (to be recorded by end of March), total personnel expenses are 12.6% under budget and total expenses are 22% under budget. CEO Barton stated that the end of April will show a better estimate of where we are financially for the year. CFO Goldman stated the zoo is working on promotions to encourage attendance. Director Nokes asked how the Pepsi proposal compares to the previous contract. CFO Goldman stated that they are very happy with the new proposal, and that Pepsi was very generous with not only the overall cost but their added promotional items. Director Valentino called for a motion to accept the financial report. Director Dougherty so moved to approve. Director Price seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Review, Discuss, and Consider FCZC Board Secretary Selection:** Director Valentino stated that the Board would need to elect a new Board secretary. This position was previously held by former Board member Sharon Levy, who termed out at the end of 2016. Director Cates stated that she would like to fill this position. Director Valentino called for a motion to approve Director Cates as the new Board secretary. Director Dougherty so moved to approve. Director Rainwater seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Closed Session:** Conference with Legal Counsel – Employee Performance Evaluation (CEO) Pursuant Govt. Code 54957(b). Closed Session entered into at 6:58 p.m., open session resumed at 8:12pm. The board reported that no action was taken affecting the employment status of the CEO. The board has agreed to schedule a special meeting for further discussion.

**Public Comment. This time is set-aside for the public to comment on any item within the jurisdiction of the Board, but not appearing on the agenda. Items presented under public comment may not be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public is invited to comment at the time the item is called for consideration by the Board. Any person addressing the Board under public comment will be limited to a 3-minute presentation to insure that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak. Please state your name and address for the record:** Dotty Doyle stated she was very happy to be a part of the zoo as a docent. She was very excited for the Facebook competition regarding the birth of the lion cubs.

**Board questions and comments:** none.

**Adjournment:** Adjournment 8:13 pm

**Respectfully submitted by:** Jessica Revis, Executive Assistant to the CEO/Executive Director  
Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Corporation