

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL ZOO COMMITTEE  
OF THE METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

December 6, 1990

Council Chamber

Committee Members Present: Ruth McFarland (Chair), Tom DeJardin (Vice Chair) and David Saucy

Committee Members Absent: Jim Gardner and David Knowles

Chair McFarland called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

The Committee and staff briefly discussed the effects of Measure No. 5 on the Metro Washington Park Zoo and noted potential actions which could offset the loss of revenue including raising admission fees and eliminating some services and/or exhibits. Staff said they would implement aggressive marketing of the Zoo to assist in raising revenue.

1. Review of RFP No. 90R-137-ZO, For Development of Conceptual Plans for Zoo Exhibits as Part of the Master Plan Update

Chair McFarland noted as Zoo Committee chair, she could act on and release the RFP alone, but thought the Zoo Committee as a whole would like to review and recommend the RFP. She noted the RFP did not require Council approval.

Kay Rich, Assistant Zoo Director, noted the RFP would provide conceptual designs for the feline exhibits, the east bear grotto, the Children's Zoo and the Zoo entrance, as well as an off-site complex if one became available. He said \$60,000 was set aside for costs, but the RFP specified \$50,000 to achieve equitable bids. Casey Short, Council Analyst, explained the Committee could forward the RFP for release, but if they changed or amended it, the full Council must review the RFP.

Motion: Councilor Saucy moved to authorize issuance of the RFP.

Vote: Councilors DeJardin, McFarland, and Saucy voted aye. Councilors Gardner and Knowles were absent. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

Councilor Saucy asked if any firms did work specifically for zoos only. Sherry Sheng, Zoo Director, noted there were specific trade associations and publications in which the RFP would be advertised nation-wide.

2. First Quarter Program Progress Report

Ms. Sheng briefly explained to the Committee that Tamba the elephant had injured an elephant keeper. She explained Tamba was not violent by nature, but was struggling for dominance in the herd with another female elephant. She said Tamba saw that elephant in their pen, lashed out with her trunk, and accidentally knocked the keeper against a wall. She said the keeper was in the hospital in serious condition and his family

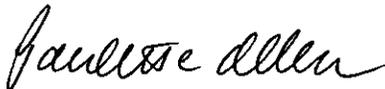
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had been notified. Chair McFarland expressed hers and the Committee's sincere wishes for the keeper's recovery and asked Ms. Sheng to report on the keeper's condition and recovery.

Ms. Sheng gave the Zoo's first quarter program progress report. She discussed admissions, catering, the Zoo Railroad, retail operations, safety, and monitoring of expenditures. Ms. Sheng discussed construction details and noted a new exhibit would open in June 1991 to maximize the revenue projections estimated for Summer 1991. Ms. Sheng said she was pleased with both Zoo and construction staff and that construction staff had made up for construction delays due to last years' bad spring weather. She noted the Zoo received a grant to research the food needs of the Humboldt penguins. She said the Washington Park Zoo would collaborate with the New York Bronx Zoo in testing high dosage vitamin effects on penguin chicks. Ms. Sheng discussed the summer concert season and other Zoo programs/events.

Chair McFarland adjourned the meeting at 4:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paulette Allen  
Committee Clerk  
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