

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL ZOO COMMITTEE
OF THE METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

Regular Meeting
May 17, 1990

Committee members present: Jim Gardner (Chair), Ruth McFarland (Vice Chair), Tom DeJardin, and Mike Ragsdale

Committee members absent: David Knowles

Chair Gardner called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

1. Behind-the-Scenes Tour of Africa Exhibit and Viewing of Rainforest Construction

The Zoo Committee meeting began with a tour of the Africa Exhibit and the construction progress of the Rainforest Exhibit.

2. Consideration of Minutes of April 19 and May 3, 1990 Meetings

Motion: Councilor Ragsdale moved for approval of the minutes.

Vote: Councilors Gardner, DeJardin and Ragsdale voted aye.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. Resolution No. 90-1252, Approving a Sole Source Purchase of a Coin Sorter/Counter

Patty Mueggler, Zoo Vault Supervisor, presented the staff report to the Committee. She told them the present coin counter was approximately ten years old and needed replacement. After soliciting competitive bids, Zoo staff determined that only a Brandt machine would be compatible with the present equipment (also Brandt). Ms. Mueggler said CPF Money Processing Systems was the sole source for Brandt equipment. Therefore, staff was requesting approval of a sole source purchase.

Motion: Councilor Ragsdale moved to recommend Council adoption of Resolution No. 90-1252.

On further discussion, it was noted by the Committee the disadvantage of being locked into a specific vendor and/or brand of equipment. It was agreed there needed to be a greater effort made when buying new equipment to ensure compatibility.

Vote: Councilors Gardner, McFarland, DeJardin and Ragsdale voted aye.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. Discussion of May 15 Election Results for Zoo Ballot Measures

In response to questions, it was noted the tax base measure passed by approximately 52/48 percent and the levy failed by about the same percentage. Committee members expressed a number of concerns regarding the election and why one measure passed and the other failed. It was suggested perhaps both measures should not have been on the same ballot. Councilor Ragsdale requested the Chair ask the Friends of the Zoo to do a survey to try to determine why the levy failed. Chair Gardner agreed and said staff should place this issue on the next agenda.

5. Policy Discussion on Updating the Zoo Master Plan

Jessica Marlitt, Council Analyst, gave the Committee a summary of the Zoo Master Plan policy issues. She also distributed some background information. Ms. Marlitt noted there were five potential issues for the Committee to consider: 1) the purpose of the Master Plan; 2) cost; 3) timing/regularity of updates; 4) benefits vs. limitations; and 5) participants/process. Kay Rich, Assistant Zoo Director, described for the Committee some of the events that have occurred since he first joined the Zoo staff. He said the actual building was limited due to the space available, but he reminded the Committee of the continuing need for upgrading and changing exhibits to meet public interest.

Councilor Ragsdale said he felt the need to visit the Master Plan, but not to make any actual changes. He felt there was a need to focus on expansion and maintenance. Chair Gardner expressed agreement, noting a need to join together vision and strategic planning and work those into a new Master Plan. The Committee requested staff prepare a memo detailing planned horticultural changes to the Zoo (the special project approved in the FY 90-91 Budget) to assist Committee members with seeing those changes when they visit the Zoo. Councilor Ragsdale also requested staff draft a resolution regarding a Zoo station on the light rail for Council endorsement. He would like this draft ready for the next Committee meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Brunson
Committee Clerk