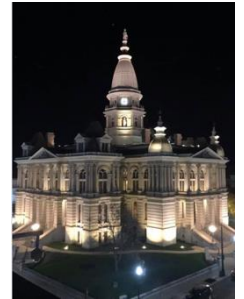




THE DAYBREAKER

August 26th, 2021



Today we had 14 in-person and 6 ZOOM attendees

- This quarter all Happy Bucks will benefit the YMCA. Please be very happy to benefit this great organization.
- Please mark your calendars for September 10th. "A Night to Remember" presented by Lafayette Hearing Center, is a special fundraising banquet to raise money for Alzheimer's research, awareness, and care. The event will be held at the Tippecanoe County Amphitheater in West Lafayette. There are various times to volunteer. The donation of your time and talents helps get the KLD Alzheimer's foundation get closer to their goal to cure this terrible disease. The link to volunteer is listed below.

https://www.ismyrotaryclub.org//Click/?_uid=800297928&_ctid=1924126&redirect=https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSez8Vo2cm52hcRUZzf7TCeT4h6eyzInDIC1ifnJdvlwwrcw/viewform?usp=sf_link

- Daybreak Rotary is a partner club in a fundraiser involving selling Copper Moon Rotary coffee in both K-Cups and bags. Sales would be contactless on the internet. The club will make \$3 for each bag and \$5 for a box of 24 K-cups. Orders will be taken at <https://founders1905.com>
- Please keep Bob Feuer and David Strand in your prayers as they deal with health issues and surgical recovery.



INVOCATION: Denis Horn

VISITORS: None

PROGRAM: Our program today was given by Courtney Mave, the Assistant Education Director at Columbian Park Zoo. She gave her history from Purdue as a Wildlife Biology major. After graduation she realized her passion was educating children and she was fortunate to get a position with the Columbian Park Zoo and has worked there for 14 years.

She confirmed that this has been a very busy time for the Zoo, which has a long history, actually being the second oldest zoo in Indiana, opening in 1908. Initially it simply showed as many different animals as possible and had a huge variety of animals, especially for its 6-acre footprint. At the change of the millennium the Zoo gave a great deal of thought to its mission and realized it had to change to become more educational and protective of animals. This led to the closure of the Zoo in 2004. The Zoo found temporary homes for its animals and completely rebuilt the Zoo, reopening in 2007. The Zoo now has about 100 animals in 50 different species and CPZ has about 120,000 annual visitors.

Courtney explained that the Zoo Industry nationally has over 181 million annual visitors, more than the combined attendance of the NFL, MLB, NHL and NBA! The industry feels its purpose is conservation, education, recreation and research. Recently they completed a large study of why people went to visit zoos, assuming the prime reason was to see the animals. Instead, they were amazed to find that the number one reason was that it was felt to be a safe place to go with families. Concessions rated third and learning about animals was eighth! Looking at this, the industry realized it had a real mismatch and came to the understanding that what they had to provide was safe family entertainment, and that money spent simply acquiring more animals may not be the best expenditure.

Locally, this caused CPZ to look at its goals and mission. The Zoo had long realized it could not do everything and now realized they would be best to concentrate on recreation and education. On the recreational side, this tied in with the renovation of Memorial Island. For the first time in decades the lagoon was cleaned and rehabilitated. This necessitated the train ride being removed and reinstalled and has also led to the soon to be completed Carousel. There has also been a return of the pedal boats, which had been scarcely used previously due to the pollution in the lagoon. All of these changes went to fulfilling their mission statement of “Changing the World, One Visitor at a Time”.

This is not to say they are not excited by their animals. The most recent addition was the African penguins, of which 7 are now on site and 2 more on the way. These penguins are from southern Africa and well acclimated to our temperate climate, but they still require 60-degree chilled water for their habitat. This and their other needs are supported by the large structure near the penguin

exhibit. They had to wait until the penguins, which were acquired from California, finished their molting season, where they lose their feathers and are more challenged by temperature and other stressors. She reported that they have 2 mating pairs of penguins, who actually pair for life. The Zoo hopes to have chicks at some time in the future and are preparing for this. She noted that all the penguins have unique chest markings, but also have individual arm bands, males on their left arms, females on the right (since females are always right!) They had been flown to Indianapolis with a zookeeper and there the CPZ van met the plane on the tarmac and transferred the birds to Lafayette. As they arrived it was noted the birds still needed to acclimate to the Indiana climate, but also to an eating schedule on Eastern rather than Pacific time.

Courtney then highlighted her educational focus, realizing they needed to make education fun and discussing how they have worked to accomplish that with the two full time and two part time employees at the Zoo. She noted all the money for their work, as well as Zoo upgrades come from ticket sales, donations and grants, while the support from the City goes to animal care. She noted the Zoom has numerous camps, classes and workshops for children ages 3-14. They also have Family Fun Programs and career and participation programs for both adult volunteers and youth from ages 14-17.

She completed her program with a look forward to upcoming events and programs. Boo at the Zoo will be held again this year, although in the daytime for safety concerns and to make the animals available for visitors to enjoy. They are also planning a new Commissary Building to prepare the special diets the animals require and look forward to a new Primate Exhibit. She welcomed us to come and enjoy the Zoo and also volunteer at the Zoo.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

September 2nd ~ Chris Campbell - Redistricting

September 9th ~ Tristen Comegys - Bauer Family Services

