



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015 – 10:00 AM

Los Angeles Zoo
Grand Room
5333 Zoo Drive
Los Angeles, California 90027

*“Nurturing
wildlife
and enriching
the human
experience”*

Los Angeles Zoo
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Eric Garcetti
Mayor

Tom LaBonge
Council Member
4th District

Zoo Commissioners

Karen B. Winnick
President

Bernardo Silva
Vice President

Tyler Kelley

Yasmine Johnson

Marc Mitchell

Richard Lichtenstein
ex officio member

John R. Lewis
Zoo Director

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen B. Winnick
Bernardo Silva
Yasmine Johnson
Marc Mitchell

VISITORS

Rex Link

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tyler Kelley

EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT

Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF

John R. Lewis
Lisa Gerencser

MEDIA

None signed in.

CITY ATTORNEY LIAISON

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AGENDA ITEM 1

CALL TO ORDER

Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 11:04 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MARCH 17, 2015

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of March 17, 2015. President Winnick moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Johnson so moved, Commissioner Mitchell seconded and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 3

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None



An Equal
Employment
Opportunity
Affirmative
Action
Employer

Accredited by the Association
of Zoos and Aquariums

Accredited by the American
Association of Museums

Member of the California
Association of Zoos and Aquariums

**AGENDA ITEM 4
CONSTRUCTION DIVISION OVERVIEW**

Tom LoVullo, Construction and Maintenance Supervisor, gave an overview of the Construction Division. The Construction Division is responsible for the following:

- All craft trades – Plumbing, electrical, carpentry, masonry, and general building maintenance
- Grounds Maintenance – the care of all the botanical areas of the Zoo
- Custodial – Cleaning of Zoo facilities
- Repairs and enhancements to current exhibits

**AGENDA ITEM 5
UPDATE ON “OLIVER” CHIMPANZEE**

Candace Scimmenti, Senior Animal Keeper, gave an update on chimpanzee “Oliver” who was born in August. “Oliver’s” mother was not feeding him so the keepers took him to be hand fed. Over the past several months keepers have worked with “Oliver’s” mom on parenting behavior. It is a very slow process but “Oliver” is being introduced to various chimps in the troop with the goal to have him on exhibit with the entire troop. Discussion about the overall process of reintroduction.

**AGENDA ITEM 6
96 ELEPHANTS CAMPAIGN**

Tom Brown, California Field Representative for 96 Elephants, gave a presentation on the campaign which is to get AB96 passed which will enforce the ban on ivory sales in California. This campaign is targeting individual states as this bill would work as an addendum to the already existing Federal Law. The loudest opposition to this bill is the NRA as they have antique firearms that contain more than 5% ivory. Once bill is passed there will be a focused “Consumer Campaign” to make the general population aware of this ban.

**AGENDA ITEM 7
MEET OUR SPRING BABIES CAMPAIGN**

Kait Hilliard, Director of Marketing and Events for GLAZA, discussed the Zoo’s spring campaign “Meet Our Spring Babies”. Commissioners were shown the commercial for this campaign and discussion about activities and the “Name our Roo” contest.

**AGENDA ITEM 8
GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

A. Capital Projects

Rebecca Abano with the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) gave a brief update on the following Zoo projects accompanied with a slide show of the work progression:

- Through March 2015, \$169 million has been spent on capital projects
- Construction on the jaguar exhibit is complete; Certificate of Occupancy has been issued and Zoo staff have moved the jaguars into the exhibit
- BOE will be returning the north parking lot back to parking space as it had been used as a laydown area for the exhibits.

B. Animal Transactions

Beth Schaefer, General Curator, discussed the latest animal transactions. Some highlights include:

- Incoming blue eyed black lemurs for breeding
- We now have the only male Gray’s monitor; will be receiving females for breeding

- Incoming Indian gharials
- Peregrine falcon chick for bird show on display in the nursery

C. GLAZA Update

Connie Morgan, President of GLAZA gave an update:

- Have reached budget goal for unrestricted accounts
- Staff is prepping for “Dream “Night” which will be held on June 5; this event is cooperative event with and for Children’s Hospital Los Angeles
- Preparations underway for the Beastly Ball

D. Marketing and Events Update

Kait Hilliard gave an update on events and general marketing efforts. Highlights included:

- *Sesame Street Live, JellyBelly Art Event, Big Bunny, and Party for the Planet.*
- All events were well attended and visitors spent more money on concessions than in previous years
- Beginning a new sponsorship with Honda

E. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- Several births including giant otters, warty pigs and a big horn sheep
- Jaguars have been moved into the new exhibit, but are not on display yet
- Mayor released his budget and an item of note is the ending of the Managed Hiring Committee
- Attendance is ahead of projections while revenues continue to be behind; this will be corrected when nighttime events revenue are counted towards admission revenue

**AGENDA ITEM 9
OLD BUSINESS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 10
ADJOURNMENT**

There being no more business to come before, President Winnick motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Mitchell so moved and Commissioner Johnson seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 12:31 PM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY