



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, August 21, 2012 – 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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Antonio R. Villaraigosa
Mayor

Tom LaBonge
Council Member
4th District

Zoo Commissioners

Karen B. Winnick
President

Bernardo Silva
Vice President

Elaine Baylor

Sue Downing, D.V.M.

Kimberly Marteau

Richard Lichtenstein
ex officio member

John R. Lewis
Zoo Director

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen B. Winnick
Sue Downing, D.V.M.
Elaine Baylor

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kimberly Marteau
Bernardo Silva

EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF

John R. Lewis
Lisa Gerencser

CITY ATTORNEY LIAISON

Basia Jankowski

AGENDA ITEM 1

CALL TO ORDER

Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JUNE 19, 2012

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of June 19, 2012, Commissioner Baylor so moved, Commissioner Downing seconded and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 3

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VISITORS

Rex Link
Jim Bickhart
Jan Richards

MEDIA

None signed in.



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AGENDA ITEM 4

LOS ANGELES ZOO CONSERVATION SUPPORT

Zoo Director John Lewis discussed the Zoo's role with various conservation groups. Highlights included:

- Ten years ago the Zoo gave \$50,000 to 13 conservation projects; currently the Zoo gives hundreds of thousands of dollars to 28 conservation projects
- LA Zoo has continually given to various projects including Elephant/Human conflict conservation in Cambodia, Bushmeat conservation in Cameroon, Peninsular Pronghorn in Mexico
- In 2012/13 we've added more conservation projects including for the Steller sea eagle in Russia, Chinese giant salamander, Madagascar turtle survival alliance, Andean tapirs in Ecuador, and mountain bongos in Kenya

Zoo Director is to report back to Commission regarding conservation efforts related to jaguars.

AGENDA ITEM 5

GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Capital Projects (Taken out of turn)

Darryl Pon, Planning and Development for the Zoo, gave a brief update on the following Zoo projects accompanied with a slide show of the work progression:

- To date, \$153.5 million of the \$171.8 million bond budget has been spent
- *Rainforest of the Americas* project is 40% complete. Working on underground utilities and stilt house; project on schedule to be completed in April 2013

B. Animal Transactions

Ian Recchio, Curator of Reptiles, discussed the latest animal transactions. Some highlights include:

- Several outgoing animals including: giant horned lizards, Chinese alligator, and Komodo dragons
- Will be receiving a female Bolen's python for LAIR and a keel-billed toucan for the Rainforest
- Serval was born at the end of June

C. GLAZA Update

GLAZA President Connie Morgan gave a quick update on GLAZA activities.

- Ground breaking ceremony was held for the World of Birds of Show renovation
- Beginning fundraising efforts for naming opportunities for the Rainforest of Americas
- AZAD conference will be held October 1 – 6; this is the 25th anniversary

D. Media Update

Jason Jacobs, Director of Public Relations and Marketing showed a clip regarding "Zoobiquity" that aired on NBC Nightline.

E. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- First group of giant river otter offspring have been introduced to their parents and now the second group are being introduced to the four adults
- Female chimp offspring was killed on exhibit by male chimp; no answers on why this took place. Since this incident there has been another chimp birth; these introductions will be made more slowly. Additionally there is another pregnant chimpanzee
- Zoo exceeded budget projections on both attendance and revenue for fiscal year 2011/12
- August 3 – 5 the Zoo hosted “Elephant Awareness”; visitors got to tour the elephant barn and take part of various elephant related activities. Over 5,000 visitors went on the barn tour over the three days
- *Brew at the Zoo* was held on August 10; over 2700 people attended this evening for the 21 and over crowd
- Admission fee increase went into effect – Adult \$17, Child \$12, Senior \$14
- Ruling was received regarding the Leider elephant case. The Zoo is already in compliance with the ruling regarding rototilling of exhibit, no use of bull hooks, and additional exercise for the elephants

Ex-Officio Member Lichtenstein voiced his opinion regarding the ruling on the elephant matter. Discussion regarding City Attorney’s office response to the judgment. Further discussion on hold until Dov Lesel returns from vacation. Zoo Director John Lewis and President Winnick will have a discussion with the City Attorney’s office staff during their agenda planning meeting. All Commissioners are to provide Commission President Winnick with any questions they want answered.

AGENDA ITEM 8 OLD BUSINESS

None

AGENDA ITEM 9 ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business to come before the Commission President Winnick called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Baylor moved to adjourn, Commissioner Downing seconded and the meeting adjourned at 10:58 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY