



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2014 – 10:00 AM

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

*“Nurturing
wildlife
and enriching
the human
experience”*

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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
Tyler Kelley
Marc Mitchell

VISITORS

Rex Link

MEMBERS ABSENT

Yasmine Johnson

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 10:01 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 18, 2014

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of November 18, 2014. President Winnick moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Mitchell so moved, Commission Vice President Silva 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

UPDATE FROM PLANNING DEPARTMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SIGN ORDINANCE

Mr. Alan Bell, Deputy Director of the Planning Department gave an overview of the City's current sign ordinance. The City Council's Planning and Land Use Committee (PLUM) will be having their 12th meeting on the ordinance today without any expectation of action occurring. The City has been dealing with multiple lawsuits related to the current sign ban and until all that litigation is resolved there will not be a final ordinance in place. Once the ordinance is finalized the Zoo Department will be able to apply for an exemption from the sign ordinance and petition to become its own sign district. Discussion about litigation and timeline between Mr. Bell and Commission President Winnick. The Planning Department will be able to assist the Zoo Department with their application once the ordinance has been finalized and approved. The entire process is estimated to take 18 months to two years.

AGENDA ITEM 5

PRESENTATION ON ZOO LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Zoo Aquarist Micah Hagan provided an overview of the Zoo's Life Support Systems (LSS). The Aquarists are responsible for all LSS in aquatic exhibits. Mr. Hagan discussed the various types of pumps and filtrations systems used in exhibits here at the Zoo; currently there are over 500,000 gallons of water used in exhibits. Discussion about daily routine and fixes the Aquarists have made at exhibits such as the piranhas in the Rainforest exhibit.

AGENDA ITEM 6

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 November 2014 \$166.5 million has been spent on capital projects
- Construction on the jaguar exhibit is 85% complete
- Jaguar exhibit expected completion is now January 2015 due to recent rain delays

B. Animal Transactions

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

- Incoming Aruba Island snake
- Incoming nose horned vipers
- Sumatran rhino that is currently on exhibit in Cincinnati will be going back to Sumatra to mate; there will no longer be Sumatran rhinos in captivity in the US.

C. Marketing and Events Update

Kait Hilliard, VP of Marketing and Events for GLAZA gave an overview of recent events and marketing efforts.

- "Boo at the Zoo" had great press coverage and a strong advertising campaign. Over 45,000 people attended the event over the two weekend; due to the higher

number of members versus visitors, GLAZA may be doing this event as a member only event next year.

- “Reindeer Romp” is back and has a strong advertising component.
- “Zoo Lights” is an evening event that runs from Nov. 28 – Jan. 4. With a huge advertising campaign, and social media discounts, the first two weeks have been a great success. More visitors than anticipated.
- Ms. Hilliard also complimented the Zoo PR department by noting the national media attention received for our hippo and chimp births

D. GLAZA Update

GLAZA Vice President Genie Vasels gave a brief update on GLAZA activities. Some items noted:

- Donors have named the new hippo “Rosie” and new giraffe “Leo”
- Reminded Commissioners the Zoo will be partnering with Children’s’ Hospital Los Angeles for “Dream Night” on June 5, 2015

E. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- Giant otter pups are currently on exhibit with their parents
- Red Ape (orangutan) exhibit will be closed while the mesh is replaced in January
- Revenue is behind while attendance is ahead of projections
- Brief discussion about the big horn sheep escape on November 22
- Announced next Commission meeting will be on January 13

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 Kelley so moved and Commission Vice President Silva seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 11:27 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY