



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015 – 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
Yasmine Johnson
Tyler Kelley
Marc Mitchell

VISITORS

Rex Link

MEMBERS ABSENT

Bernardo Silva

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 10:06 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JANUARY 13, 2015

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of January 13, 2015. President Winnick moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Mitchell so moved, Commissioner Johnson seconded and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 3

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None



An Equal
Employment
Opportunity
Affirmative
Action
Employer

AGENDA ITEM 4

UPDATE ON “JABARI” WESTERN LOWLAND GORILLA

Dr. Cindy Stadler gave an update on “Jabari’s” recovery from his broken femur. He has been at the Health Center for five months. He will be brought back to the gorilla building and then slowly reintroduced to his brother on exhibit. He is making very good progress.

AGENDA ITEM 5

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 January 2015 \$168 million has been spent on capital projects
- Construction on the jaguar exhibit is 95% complete
- Currently awaiting Certificate of Occupancy

B. Animal Transactions

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

- Incoming fresh water polka dot stingrays will be exhibited in Rainforest Of The Americas exhibit
- Incoming gray short-tail opossum for animal outreach programs
- Several births including black howler monkeys and Chacoan peccaries

C. GLAZA Update

Jeb Bonner, CFO for GLAZA gave an update on gifts received:

- Received \$5,000 for LAIR
- Received \$10,000 for orangutan mesh replacement
- \$26,000 for continued support of ZooPals
- Mrs. Duttenhaver has continued her support of the Earth Watch trips

Commissioner Johnson asked about final revenue numbers from Zoo Lights. Mr. Bonner from GLAZA stated they are still collecting all the data but there were 177,000 attendees.

D. Events Update

Emily Marin updated the Commission on events:

- “Snow Days” event was attended well but most attendees were members
- “African American History” event was held for the first time since 2009. Noticed new diversity in the attendees of this event
- Remarked on the Zoo’s PR introduction of “CJ” our new Sumatran tiger
- A lot of social media activity regarding birth of koala and the giraffe who picked the Superbowl winner

E. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- “Oliver” the chimpanzee is slowly be introduced back to the troupe
- Magnificent tree frogs are on exhibit in LAIR
- Attendance is above projections while revenue continues to be behind. Currently working on amending the MOU with GLAZA so that night time ticketed event revenue will count towards general admission revenue
- Began enhanced visitor experiences at various exhibits where Education, Volunteers, and Animal Keeper staffs will discuss the animals on exhibit.
- Due to delays, the projected opening of the jaguar exhibit is end of March
 1. Mr. Lewis discussed the various policies discussed at the AZA Director’s Policy Conference. Highlights included AZA’s SAFE program and the Ocean Project. Noted a lot of current Zoo Directors will be retiring soon so the AZA is organizing an Executive Leadership Training program for future Directors.
 2. The American alligator that was confiscated from a residence in the San Fernando Valley is currently being held here off exhibit until an institution is available to take her.

**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 Johnson so moved and Commissioner Mitchell seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY