



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2013 – 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
5333 Zoo Drive
Los Angeles
California 90027
323/644-4200
Fax 323/662-9786
<http://www.lazoo.org>

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
Kimberly Marteau
Bernardo Silva
Sue Downing, DVM
Elaine Baylor

VISITORS

Rex Link
Marian Dodge
Gerry Hans

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT

Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF

John R. Lewis
Lisa Gerencser

MEDIA

None signed in.

CITY ATTORNEY LIAISON

Dov Lesel

AGENDA ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER

Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF DECEMBER 18, 2012

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of December 18, 2012 Commissioner Silva so moved, Commissioner Marteau seconded and the motion passed.



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**AGENDA ITEM 3
GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 4
DISCUSSION ABOUT FEBRUARY 8, 2013 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR**

Zoo Director John Lewis discussed a letter he received from Mayor Villaraigosa regarding the future of the LA Zoo without privatization. The Mayor has instructed the Zoo Department to work with GLAZA on expanded their role in areas of marketing, advertising, and parking lot revenue; annual MOUs will be created between the Zoo and GLAZA. The Zoo must also operate without the \$1.3 million from the General Fund. Discussion regarding sponsorship vs. sign district. The Zoo Department is also to report back to the Mayor regarding the possible installation of a 4D Theatre. The “Zoo Working Group” which consists of union leaders, CAO, CLA, Mayor’s Office, and Zoo staff will finalize their report for Council; this report will include the utilization of Business Intelligence Software.

Commission President Winnick asked if the Zoo was slowly heading towards privatization. Zoo Director Lewis explained that privatization discussions are no longer and this is about an expanded public-private partnership.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEM 4

Marian Dodge with Friends of Griffith Park asked that the Zoo not become a Sign District as the Zoo is an open space and children do not need to be inundated with signage.

Gerry Hans with Friends of Griffith Park also asked that the Zoo not become a Sign District. Mr. Hans also noted that paying for parking is against the Griffith Trust requirement of free open space.

**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:

- *Rainforest of the Americas* (ROA) project is 63% complete.
- Remaining Prop CC funds to be spent on new jaguar exhibit; to be completed by December 31. This raises the complete capital spending to \$172.6 million.
- Work continues on ROA – stilt house, tapir and otter exhibits, and Harpy eagle

Discussion regarding completeion of ROA and the jaguar exhibit.

B. Animal Transactions

Jeff Holland Curator of Mammals discussed the latest animal transactions. Some highlights include:

- Received emerald tree boa and piranhas for the ROA
- A male takin was born

- Received a giant one-horned chameleon through a confiscation

C. GLAZA Update

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

- Currently securing sponsors for ROA
- Need additional donations for the bird show
- This year's Beastly Ball will honor Wells Fargo and the leadership award will be given to Pauley Perrette

D. Media Update

Director of Public Relations and Marketing, Jason Jacobs, played two news stories about "Snow Days" at the Zoo.

E. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- Several births including colobus monkey, sifaka, and takin
- Fish eagle introductions are going well
- New python in LAIR
- Great attendance for the Snow Days event

a). John Lewis further discussed the surplus Prop CC funds being utilized for the jaguar exhibit

**AGENDA ITEM 6
OLD BUSINESS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 7
ADJOURNMENT**

There being no more business to come before, President Winnick motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Marteau so moved and Vice President Silva seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY