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

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.
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 completion 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: