



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2014 – 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
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<http://www.lazoo.org>

Eric Garcetti
Mayor

Tom LaBonge
Council Member
4th District

Zoo Commissioners

Karen B. Winnick
President

Bernardo Silva
Vice President

Sue Downing, D.V.M.

Yasmine Johnson

Marc Mitchell

Richard Lichtenstein
ex officio member

John R. Lewis
Zoo Director

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen B. Winnick
Sue Downing, DVM
Yasmine Johnson
Marc Mitchell

VISITORS

Rex Link
Luciana Giorgi

MEMBERS ABSENT

Bernardo Silva

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 10:13 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JANUARY 28, 2014

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of January 28, 2014. Commissioner Johnson so moved, Commissioner Mitchell 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
HEALTHY ZOO CONCESSION OPTIONS**

Jake Pugh, General Manager of Food Services for the Zoo gave an overview of the healthy food concession options on grounds. Concessionaire contracts with vendors for fresh and local produce. Healthy kid's meal options only accounted for 11% for sales in 2013. Discussion regarding current options and future options. Noted that we can have many healthy food options but demand is still dictated by the person's making the purchases.

**AGENDA ITEM 5
AZA DIRECTOR'S POLICY CONFERENCE SESSION – Zoos and Aquariums
Engaging People**

Zoo Director John Lewis discussed the recent Zoo Director policy conference he attended in Santa Barbara. Discussion about groups whose sole purpose is conservation and Zoos who do more than just conservation. Zoos do not promote all the conservation efforts they are involved with and this leads to the general public's lack of knowledge about the Zoo Industry. It is time to redefine and evolve the brand of what it is that Zoos do for conservation. Discussion about the need to communicate efforts more broadly.

**AGENDA ITEM 6
PRESENTATION – THE BROWN ACT**

City Attorney, Dov Lesel, gave an overview and tutorial on the Brown Act. The Brown Act governs all public meetings and it is required that Commissioners understand the Act as well as follow all policy and procedures to avoid penalty.

Public Comment: Rex Link asked about the how to contact the Board or Zoo Director outside of the public forum. Attorney Lesel noted this comment was not on the Agenda topic.

**AGENDA ITEM 7
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 97% complete.
- Have spent \$165 million on capital projects to date.
- Should receive Certificate of Occupancy in the next few weeks

B. Animal Transactions

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

- Sent male Masai giraffe out for breeding
- Will be receiving a male tufted deer

- A takin was born and is currently on exhibit
- Hippopotamus introductions went very well; video of introduction was played for Commissioners

C. GLAZA Update

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

- Received \$55,000 from Linda Dutton for this year's Earthwatch Trip
- Received \$55,000 for a new animal transport van
- Sarah Michelle Gellar will be the host for the new Safari Club members event on February 22

D. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- ZooCamp registration is now available online
- Tentative opening date for ROA is April 24
- Received a pair of jaguars; currently in former snow leopard exhibit
- Received an older pair of non-breeding lions

1. Litigation Update – City Attorney Dov Lesel noted that the City has asked the courts to dismiss SEIU case. The elephant litigation continues with additional documents being sent; expected back in court August 2014

**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 Downing so moved and Commissioner Johnson seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 12:07 PM.

*Due to lengthy meeting the Commissioners were unable to tour ROA; will be rescheduled.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY