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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT
Bernardo Silva

EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT
Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF
John R. Lewis
Lisa Gerencser

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
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 Duttenhaver 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:

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PRESIDENT      SECRETARY