



# MINUTES

## BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2014 – 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  
4<sup>th</sup> 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  
Bernardo Silva  
Sue Downing, DVM  
Yasmine Johnson  
Marc Mitchell

### VISITORS

Rex Link

### EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT

Richard Lichtenstein

### COMMISSION STAFF

John R. Lewis  
Lisa Gerencser

### MEDIA

None signed in.

### CITY ATTORNEY LIAISON

John Carvalho

### 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 DECEMBER 17, 2013

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of December 17, 2013. Commission Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Downing 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**

**PRESENTATION – CALIFORNIA CONDOR RECOVERY STATUS UPDATE**

Animal Keepers Mike Clark and Jenny Schmidt introduced “Dolly” to the Commissioners. “Dolly” is the first California condor that will be used as an ambassador for the condor recovery program and as an outreach animal; she sustained a severely broken wing and cannot be returned to the wild. During the course of the condor recovery, the number of birds in the wild has gone from 22 to 412. California condors are carrion eaters and due to their feeding habits these birds have been adversely affected by lead poisoning; feeding off animals that have been killed with lead bullets. New state legislation passed by Governor Brown has banned the use of lead ammunition, but this law will not be fully implemented until 2019. The current goal of the program is to have 450 birds in the wild population.

**AGENDA ITEM 5 (Taken out of order before item 4)**

**PRESENTATION – LOS ANGELES ZOO KOMODO DRAGON PROGRAM UPDATE**

Ian Recchio, Curator of Reptiles gave an overview of the Komodo dragon program. The Komodo dragon is the largest lizard on earth; the majority of the wild dragons are on the islands of Rinca and Komodo. There are approximately 3,000 Komodo dragons in the wild. Mr. Recchio traveled to Komodo Island to work with field biologists, study the Komodo’s habits/habitat and share his knowledge of successful breeding. The Los Angeles Zoo has been so successful with the Komodo breeding that there are now Komodo dragons in more US Zoos, and an improved breeding population in European Zoos.

**AGENDA ITEM 6**

**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 96.5% complete.
- Have spent \$163.1 million on capital projects to date.
- Work should be completed at the end of February or beginning of March
- Bids for jaguar exhibit should be completed within a month

Commission President Winnick asked if the Commissioners could have a hard hat tour at the conclusion of next month’s meeting; John Lewis will facilitate. ROA should be opening sometime in March or April.

**B. Animal Transactions**

Susie Kasielke, Curator of Birds discussed the latest animal transactions. Some highlights include:

- Male hornbill went to SDZ
- Male babirusa sent to Jacksonville zoo for breeding
- Zoo will be breeding goats in the contact yard

**C. GLAZA Update**

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

- Received \$10,000 for ZooPals program
- Received \$50,000 for Witherbee Auditorium maintenance
- This year's Beastly Ball honoree will be Heather Mycoskie, the wife of Blake Mycoskie who is the founder of Tom's Shoes. The Zoo will be partnering with Tom's Shoes to sell shoes that raise funds for animal conservation.
- A Toyota Prius will be raffled during the Beastly Ball

**D. EVENTS Update**

Kait Hilliard, VP of Marketing and Events for GLAZA discussed most recent Zoo events

- The return of Reindeer Romp was a success
- New Zoo branding campaign "Connect" is on 19 billboards
- Past weekend celebrated "Zodiac" in honor of the Lunar New Year – Year of the Horse; Zoo spotlighted the zebra
- Continue to grow social media presence
- 99 Cent Store and Dannon promotions

**E. Zoo Director Reports**

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- Sifaka was the first birth of 2014
- Now exhibiting grey kangaroos and a two-toed sloth
- Attendance and revenue continue to be behind mostly due to the delayed opening of ROA
- Business and Marketing Plan and GLAZA MOU for Marketing and Events will go back before Council in March

**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 Commission Vice President Silva seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 11:31 AM.

ATTEST:

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY