



# MINUTES

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

TUESDAY, January 17, 2012 – 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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Antonio R. Villaraigosa  
Mayor

Tom LaBonge  
Council Member  
4<sup>th</sup> 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

Elaine Baylor  
Karen B. Winnick  
Kimberly Marteau  
Sue Downing, D.V.M.

### VISITORS

Rex Link  
Jim Bickhart

### MEMBERS ABSENT

Bernardo Silva

### EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

Richard Lichtenstein

### COMMISSION STAFF

John R. Lewis  
Lisa Gerencser

### MEDIA

None signed in.

### CITY ATTORNEY LIAISON

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### AGENDA ITEM 1

#### CALL TO ORDER

Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

### AGENDA ITEM 2

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15, 2011

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of November 15, 2011, Commissioner Marteau 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 – AVIAN EGG INCUBATION WORKSHOP**

Zoo Curator of Birds, Susie Kasielke, gave a summary of an Avian Egg Incubation Workshop she held at the Shanghai Zoo in China. This was the first workshop of this type to be held in China with over 24 participants from all over the country. Participants were made up Keepers, Vets, and other zoo staff. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Need to salvage valuable eggs and increase populations
- Ability to manage eggs in the nest and replace with “dummy” eggs if necessary
- Understanding factors of hatchability – weather, temperature, humidity
- Repair of damaged eggs
- The purpose of candling eggs
- Hatchery design and equipment
- China has requested this workshop again in 2013

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5**

##### **AZA ACCREDITATION PROCESS**

Zoo Director John Lewis gave a brief overview of the AZA Accreditation process. In September 2011 the Los Angeles Zoo submitted its accreditation questionnaire; after review of our application the AZA Accreditation Commission assigned an inspection team to come out and inspect the zoo. The accreditation team will be at the LA Zoo from January 18 – 21, 2012. Mr. Lewis discussed the various sections of the accreditation application, AZA standards and policies, as well as the final outcome of the accreditation process. As of today, the LA Zoo will have its Accreditation Hearings at the AZA Mid-Year Conference in Palm Desert in March 2012.

#### **GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

##### **A. Capital Projects**

Rebecca Abano with the Bureau of Engineering gave a brief update on the following Zoo projects accompanied with a slide show of the work progression:

- To date, \$148 million of the \$172 million bond budget has been spent
- *Rainforest of the Americas* project is 18% complete; currently working on masonry walls and underground services
- *LAIR (Living Amphibians, Invertebrates and Reptiles)* – is 95% complete and will remain at 95% until the Certificate of Occupancy has been received.
- Tentative opening for the *LAIR* is March 1, 2012.

##### **B. Animal Transactions**

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

- Incoming rainbow fish and archerfish for LAIR
- Receiving a male Malayan chevrotain for breeding
- Received female chimp owned by Knoxville Zoo
- Receiving a female blue-billed curassow for breeding

**C. GLAZA Update**

GLAZA President, Connie Morgan, noted that a substantial donation was received from the Yorkshire family for the Zoo's Master Plan. Six additional carousel animals have been sponsored. Membership is on target with yearly projections. The Los Angeles Zoo will be hosting a docent conference in October 2012.

**D. Media Update**

Director of Public Relations and Marketing, Jason Jacobs, played a clip of from MSNBC which highlighted the debut of the Sumatran tiger cubs.

**E. Zoo Director Reports**

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- The Zoo parking lot was utilized for a Christmas tree recycling press conference sponsored by Sanitation and the Mayor's office
- Zoo Winter Camp was 96% full
- Attendance is behind 4% behind projections
- Revenue 8% below projections
- The Zoo will be allowed to have its own Sign Ordinance; the process can take up to a year to complete. This will help with sponsorship opportunities
- Admissions now has smartphone scanners to process online ticket purchases
- Commended staff for cleaning up the Zoo after the windstorm

Commission President Winnick asked if the Commissioners can go on a walkthrough of LAIR at the February meeting; Mr. Lewis stated that would be fine.

**AGENDA ITEM 8  
OLD BUSINESS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 9  
ADJOURNMENT**

There being no more business to come before the Commission President Winnick adjourned the meeting in honor of Betty White's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Commissioner Baylor seconded and the meeting adjourned at 11:36 am.

ATTEST:

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY