



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, June 16, 2015 – 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
323/644-4200
Fax 323/662-9786
<http://www.lazoo.org>

Eric Garcetti
Mayor

Tom LaBonge
Council Member
4th District

Zoo Commissioners

Karen B. Winnick
President

Bernardo Silva
Vice President

Tyler Kelley

Yasmine Johnson

Marc Mitchell

Richard Lichtenstein
ex officio member

John R. Lewis
Zoo Director

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen B. Winnick
Bernardo Silva
Yasmine Johnson
Tyler Kelley
Marc Mitchell

VISITORS

Rex Link
Il Young Moon

EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT

Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF

John R. Lewis
Lisa Gerencser

MEDIA

None signed in.

CITY ATTORNEY LIAISON

Kim Miera

AGENDA ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER

Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MAY 19, 2015

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of May 19, 2015. President Winnick moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Johnson so moved, Commissioner Mitchell seconded and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 3 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None



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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
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION OVERVIEW**

Darryl Pon, Landscape Architect, gave an overview of the Planning and Development Division. This Division is responsible for the following:

- Works as Zoo Liaison on all BOE and Proposition Projects
- Assist with selection of contractor for major projects
- Sustainability officer for the Zoo
- Assist with design of in-house projects; example is the Komodo dragon exhibit

**AGENDA ITEM 5
FISCAL YEAR 2015/16 CITY BUDGET**

Zoo Director John Lewis, gave a PowerPoint presentation on next fiscal year's budget. The Zoo's total budget will be \$19.67 million. Highlights included:

- Projected attendance for current fiscal year will be achieved by adding night time ticketed events to the total admission number
- One dollar fee increase in every ticket category
- Increase in funding for animal feed and medicinal needs
- Approval for a Zoo Nutritionist

Discussion about requesting General Fund contribution for future years. Commissioners discussed the new minimum wage having a possible impact on vendors/contractors.

**AGENDA ITEM 6
RAINFOREST OF THE AMERICAS (ROA) APP**

Kait Hilliard, VP of Marketing and Events for GLAZA discussed the ROA mobile app. The app is to be used while visiting the ROA exhibit; it provides photos, facts and a map. Discussion about how useful a specific exhibit app is compared to entire Zoo app. Further discussion of visitors using phones instead of enjoying the zoo experience. Commissioner Johnson commented that she thinks the GPS enabled map is great for moms visiting the Zoo as this Zoo is not the easiest to navigate.

**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:

- Through May 2015, \$169.5 million has been spent on capital projects
- All capital projects will conclude on June 30
- A final report on all the projects will be submitted by BOE

B. Animal Transactions

Beth Schaefer, General Curator, discussed the latest animal transactions. Some highlights include:

- Outgoing young male takin; a female takin was born
- Nigerian dwarf goats kids are now visible for visitors to view
- Outgoing babirusa male for breeding

Ms. Schaefer asked Curator of Reptiles Ian Recchio, to discuss the successful breeding and hatching of Gray's monitors. This is the first time there has been recorded successful

breeding of this species. There is another clutch of eggs to hatch soon. Mr. Recchio will be sharing his findings with other zoos as well as writing a paper on the subject.

C. GLAZA Update

Connie Morgan, President of GLAZA gave an update:

- Have exceeded fundraising goal of \$2 million by and additional \$500,000
- \$890,000 has been raised to date from the Beastly Ball which will be held on Saturday, June 20

Ms. Morgan asked Vice President of Development, Genie Vasels to discuss “Dream Night”. Ms. Vasels discussed the Children’s Hospital LA (CHLA) event. Event was a huge success for CHLA patients and their families. Will be researching on the feasibility of making this an annual event.

D. Marketing and Events Update

Kait Hilliard gave an update on events and general marketing efforts. Highlights included:

- Promotion of “Family Fun Fridays” a four-pack of tickets offered on Fridays throughout the summer at a discounted rate
- Great coverage of the opening of the jaguar exhibit
- Most liked Zoo video on YouTube is the Nigerian dwarf goats kids

E. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- Attendance above projections for May with revenue still behind
- Zoo will finish close to targets for revenue and attendance for the fiscal year
- In the process of interviewing candidates for the Chief Veterinarian position

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; Commission Vice President Silva so moved and Commissioner Mitchell seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY