



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 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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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
Bernardo Silva
Yasmine Johnson
Marc Mitchell

VISITORS

Rex Link

MEMBER ABSENT

Sue Downing, DVM

EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT

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 10:08 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MAY 20, 2014

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of May 20, 2014. Commission Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Johnson 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 – LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVATORY**

Animal Keeper and President of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK), Mike Bona, gave a presentation of his trip to the LEWA Wildlife Conservatory in Isiolo, Kenya. Every year the AAZK hold a fundraising event called “Bowling for Rhinos”. This year LA Zoo and San Diego Zoo were the top fundraising zoos and as such staff from both zoos were flown to the LEWA facility to see their fundraising dollars at work. The total raised by all chapters of the AAZK this year was \$500,000.

LEWA is a protective refuge for both black and white rhinos. The goal is to protect the rhinos from poachers who kill rhinos for their horns which are believed to have healing powers. At the time of Mr. Bona’s visit there were 73 white rhinos and 61 black rhinos at LEWA. The conservatory works with the local people on education and conservation efforts.

**AGENDA ITEM 5
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 2014 \$164.4 million has been spent on capital projects
- Excavation and grading have started on the jaguar exhibit
- Jaguar expected completion is December 2014

B. Animal Transactions

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

- Chacoan peccary triplets born
- Babirusa triplets born
- Will be receiving confiscated scorpion mud turtles

Commissioners had questions regarding the deaths of a CA condor and giant otter pups. Dr. Curtis Eng noted the otters were killed by their young mother and the condor had a lead toxicity level that was too high to treat. Also noted that the wallaby deaths are due to pouch management as a way to reduce over population.

C. GLAZA Update

GLAZA Vice President Genie Vasels gave a brief update on GLAZA activities.

- Beastly Ball was held on June 14; over 800 attendees and \$1.1 million raised
- Have received over \$100,000 gifts from various foundations
- Less than \$43,000 due on GLAZA’s commitment to the Elephant of Asia’s exhibit

D. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- Continue to add animals to the ROA exhibit; breeding has been observed within the new habitats
- Mountain yellow legged frogs have been released back to the wild
- Attendance and revenue continue to be behind projections
- Will be moving forward on replacing the mesh at the orangutan exhibit

AGENDA ITEM 9 (Taken out of turn)

OLD BUSINESS

Based on Commissioners schedules the August 2014 Zoo Commission meeting has been cancelled.

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 Johnson seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY