



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2013 – 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
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<http://www.lazoo.org>

Antonio R. Villaraigosa
Mayor

Tom LaBonge
Council Member
4th 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

Karen B. Winnick
Elaine Baylor
Bernardo Silva
Sue Downing, DVM
Kimberly Marteau

VISITORS

Rex Link
Jim Bickhart
Marian Dodge
Renee Weitzer
Luciana Giorgi

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 10:14 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MAY 21, 2013

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of May 21, 2013. Commissioner Marteau so moved, Commissioner Downing seconded and the motion passed.



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AGENDA ITEM 3

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Marian Dodge with Friends of Griffith Park spoke regarding the Zoo's preferred parking program. Ms. Dodge is of the opinion that the Zoo's preferred parking violates the Griffith Trust and the lease agreement with the Autry Museum. Ms. Dodge suggests leaving all the parking gates open and not charging for parking.

Rex Link complimented the Zoo on the landscaping that has taken place along the perimeter of the parking lot. Mr. Link commented that the landscaping has improved pedestrian, bicycle, and motorist safety. Mr. Link noted that the City was in violation of the Corner Visibility Ordinance, but the landscaping has fixed that violation.

AGENDA ITEM 4

ROLE OF CAZA POPULATION BIOLOGIST

Andrea Putnam, PhD, the CAZA Population Biologist discussed various aspects of her position. There is a global effort among zoos to improve the genetic diversity and demography of the captive population; to this end the Population Biologist creates breeding and transfer plans per species. Dr. Putnam discussed the success of the improved and increased jaguar population as a result of the biologist's findings. Dr. Putnam explained the status of Sumatran rhinos and how through research she believes zoos need to have at least 16 rhinos in captivity to continue this population. Some discussion about whom and how the plans are enacted by various institutions.

AGENDA ITEM 5

RECOGNITION OF COMMISSIONER KIMBERLY MARTEAU EMERSON

Commission President Winnick thanked Commissioner Marteau for all her years of service to the Zoo and presented her with a plaque of recognition. Each Commissioner thanked Commissioner Marteau for her dedication. Renee Weitzer from Councilmember LaBonge's office presented Commissioner Marteau with a City Proclamation, flowers, and pumpkin bread. Zoo Director John Lewis thanked Commissioner Marteau for all her years of service to the Zoo. Genie Vasels with GLAZA presented Commissioner Marteau with a gift and a thank you on behalf of GLAZA's Board of Trustees. Commissioner Marteau thanked everyone.

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 82% complete.
- Have spent \$159.4 on capital projects to date.
- Work continues on ROA – stilt house, tapir and otter pools
- Contractor has extended completion date to August 19, 2013

B. Animal Transactions

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

- Will be receiving a male giant otter for breeding
- Will be receiving a pair of breeding jaguars once the new exhibit is completed
- Will be receiving a male maned wolf for breeding
- Male hippopotamus received and is on exhibit; this hippo is the offspring of “Otis” our adult male hippo who is on exhibit in San Diego

C. GLAZA Update

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

- GLAZA has their 2nd or 3rd best fundraising year bringing in over \$4 million
- Beastly Ball raised over \$1 million
- Continuing raising funds for *Elephants of Asia* and *Rainforest of the Americas*

D. Media Updates

Jason Jacobs, Director of Public Relations and Marketing played a clip produced by Nintendo that highlighted the Nintendo Donkey Kong promotion that was held at the Zoo over Memorial Day weekend. Over 40,000 visitors attended the event.

E. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- Jason Jacobs will be leaving to be the Zoo Director at Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, AZ
- All the chimpanzees are on exhibit; one male has been introduced to the maternal group
- USDA has lessened its permitting restrictions for hoofstock
- Zoo received an award for the work it's done with mountain yellow-legged frog
- The Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) for the City has issued a report to the City Council asking them to reject the Public Relations and Marketing MOU that was executed between the Zoo and GLAZA. Discussion ensued regarding the MOU and CAO, CLA, and Council opinions. Commission President Winnick noted she has already sent letters to Council encouraging them to move forward the MOU. Commissioner Marteau urged all Commissioners to write individual letters.

AGENDA ITEM 6

OLD BUSINESS

None

**AGENDA ITEM 7
ADJOURNMENT**

There being no more business to come before, President Winnick motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Marteau so moved and Commission Vice President Silva seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY