



# MINUTES

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 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  
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Fax 323/662-9786  
<http://www.lazoo.org>

Eric Garcetti  
Mayor

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

### VISITORS

Rex Link  
Renee Weitzer

### MEMBERS ABSENT

Tyler Kelley

### EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT

Richard Lichtenstein

### COMMISSION STAFF

John R. Lewis  
Lisa Gerencser

### MEDIA

None signed in.

### CITY ATTORNEY LIAISON

Dov Lesel

### AGENDA ITEM 1

#### CALL TO ORDER

Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

### AGENDA ITEM 2

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17, 2015

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of February 17, 2015. President Winnick moved to approve the minutes. 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

**AGENDA ITEM 4**  
**EDUCATION DIVISION OVERVIEW**

Kirsten Perez, Director of Education, gave an overview of the Education Division including their on grounds programming. Education offers the following programs/classes: Formal Programs, Overnights, Classes, Informal Programs, CCRZ, Educators at Muriel's Ranch, and Special Programs. Examples of some of the programs are:

- Formal Programs – Zoo Camps
- Overnights for scouting groups or families
- Classes for ages 2 – 4
- Informal Programs – Educators at Elephants, Rhino, and ROA exhibits to answer questions from the public
- CCRZ – Interactive play area for children to learn about the CA Condor Recovery Program

Additionally, the Education Division is responsible for:

- Graphics – all signage on zoo grounds
- Biofacts – organizing and maintaining the Zoo's biofact collection which includes pelts, bones, and antlers
- EarthWatch Trip - yearly trip to various countries to participate in field studies. Students and Zoo chaperones attend.
- Posters – funding from Boeing has allowed this division to create an educator tool for teachers to use in their classrooms. Each poster has a different conservation method and is targeted at various age groups
- Scholarships for both Zoo Camp and field trips

Discussion about additional poster ideas and possibility targeting older students.

**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 February 2015 \$168.1 million has been spent on capital projects
- Construction on the jaguar exhibit is 99% complete
- Continue to wait for Certificate of Occupancy to move animals into exhibit

**B. Animal Transactions**

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

- Green pigeons will be on display in the lower aviary
- Incoming female serval to be paired with our male for breeding
- Incoming spotted thick-knee birds

**C. GLAZA Update**

Genie Vasels, VP for GLAZA gave an update:

- Have reached fundraising goal for the year with a couple months still to go
- This year's Beastly Ball will honor, Councilmember Tom LaBonge, 99 Cent Stores, and Lance Bass
- Parson's Foundation gave money to use towards marketing

**D. Zoo Director Reports**

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- Several births including yellow footed rock wallaby, pronghorn twins, koalas and grey kangaroo joeys
- Nocturnal House has been reopened with Australian animals
- Discussion about AB96 – Legislation to ban the sale of ivory
- Staff is currently monitoring a new strain of the Avian Flu
- Attendance is up but revenue continues to be behind about 13%

**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 Mitchell so moved and Commissioner Johnson seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 AM.

ATTEST:

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY