



# MINUTES

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

TUESDAY, March 20, 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

Karen B. Winnick  
Bernardo Silva  
Kimberly Marteau  
Elaine Baylor

### VISITORS

Rex Link  
Jim Bickhart

### MEMBERS ABSENT

Sue Downing, D.V.M.

### EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT

Richard Lichtenstein

### COMMISSION STAFF

Denise M. Verret  
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 10:05 AM.

### AGENDA ITEM 2

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2012

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of February 21, 2012, Commission Vice President Silva approved and 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**

##### **OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Commissioner Marteau was excused from attending the update meeting so there was nothing to report.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5**

##### **Presentation – DUTTENHAVER 2011 EARTHWATCH TRIP TO KENYA TO STUDY GREVY'S ZEBRAS**

Education Curator Heather Shields presented an overview of the group's trip to Wamba in the Samburu District. Lizi Vidar, a senior at North Hollywood Zoo Magnet, chosen to participate in this study, also shared her experience. The students and chaperones participated in several field study activities. Highlights included:

- There are approximately 2,500 Grevy's zebras in this area of Wamba
- Data collection – photo identification and fauna collection
- Daily data entry of collected information
- Bush guided tours
- Understanding that field research is not just scientific; there are interactions with the local people and nature

#### **GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

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

Ethan Wong 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, \$150.7 million of the \$172.3 million bond budget has been spent
- *Rainforest of the Americas* project is 27% complete; currently working on masonry walls and foundation
- *LAIR (Living Amphibians, Invertebrates and Reptiles)* – received COO on March 7. There are currently issues with the heating element in the Fiji iguana exhibit; those issues are being worked on with the animal off exhibit

Vice President Silva asked if the Commission could again receive the minutes from the Zoo Bond Oversight Committee meetings; minutes will be forwarded to all Commissioners.

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

Jennie Becker, Curator of Mammals, discussed the latest animal transactions. Some highlights include:

- Yellow backed duiker at Miami Zoo until ready to be transferred to Germany
- Harbor seals will be moving to Hogle Zoo; there is some discussion to move gray seals down to the front *Sea Life Cliffs* exhibit
- National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore came to the Zoo to photograph various species. Mr. Sartore is currently completing a project called bio-diversity where he will be capturing 6,000 species.
- "Gracie" the chimp gave birth to a female chimp on March 6

Commission President Winnick asked Ms. Becker if she would do a presentation to the Commission on the chimp exhibit and success of our chimp program.

**C. GLAZA Update**

GLAZA President Connie Morgan gave a quick update on GLAZA activities.

- Received a donation of \$50,000 for the Master Plan; this will be used for Elephants of Asia
- Donor Linda Duttenhaver has made another donation of \$50,000 to send students and chaperons to Peru for this years Earthwatch trip
- Foundation luncheon will be held on March 22
- Beastly Ball preparations are underway; the Ball will be held on June 16 and this year's honoree will be former Mayor Richard Riordan

**D. Media Update – LAIR Opening**

Jason Jacobs, Director of Public Relations and Marketing presented the Commission with the final advertising campaign of the LAIR opening and updates on attendance over the opening days.

- Over 30,000 visitors over the four day opening; a 12% increase in attendance from the same time last year
- LAIR is featured on 152 billboards throughout Southern California
- Metro and Dash bus wraps will begin next week
- Five LAIR commercials featuring Betty White and Slash are currently playing in the LA metro area

**E. Zoo Director Reports**

Assistant General Manager Denise Verret commented on the following:

- Staff is preparing for Spring Break; 90% of local school districts are on Spring Break April 2 – 6, 2012
- Attendance for February was ahead of projection with 129,000 visitors
- Revenue for the month and fiscal year are on target
- Big Bunny's Spring Fling will be held April 6 – 8, 2012
- Earth Day Expo will be held April 22, 2012

**AGENDA ITEM 8  
OLD BUSINESS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 9  
ADJOURNMENT**

There being no more business to come before the Commission President Winnick called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Marteau seconded and the meeting adjourned at 11:04 AM.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY