



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 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
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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
Sue Downing, DVM
Marc Mitchell

VISITORS

Rex Link
Renee Weitzer

MEMBERS ABSENT

Yasmine Johnson

EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

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 10:09 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 18, 2014

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of February 18, 2014. Commission Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Downing seconded and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 3

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None



An Equal
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of Zoos and Aquariums

Accredited by the American
Association of Museums

Member of the California
Association of Zoos and Aquariums

AGENDA ITEM 4

SLOAN GRANT RECIPIENT – WOMABT FIELD STUDY PRESENTATION

Animal Keeper Damian Lechner discussed his experience in southern Australia studying wombats. The area the study was taken place covers over 500 miles. Mr. Lechner discussed the various types of wombats and the areas they are located. Discussion about wombat burrows and destruction that wombats can cause. After the field study, Mr. Lechner was also able to visit Adelaide and Perth Zoos.

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:

- *Rainforest of the Americas* (ROA) project is 98% complete
- Work will be considered 100% complete once Certificate of Occupancy is received and life support systems have been tested
- ZBOC will meet this Friday to discuss the jaguar exhibit

B. Animal Transactions

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

- Will be receiving a purple swamphen
- Received several rabbits to be added to the goose exhibit in the children's zoo
- Received pair of jaguars; being quarantined in the old snow leopard exhibit

Commission President Winnick asked about the death of the Sumatran tiger. Chief Veterinarian Curtis Eng explained the tiger was an older male with multiple health conditions.

C. GLAZA Update

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

- Received \$50,000 from a foundation to sponsor the last two carousel animals
- Received \$10,000 from Nickelodeon
- Foundation luncheon will be held on March 20
- Raffle off a Prius for this year's Beastly Ball; tickets are \$100

D. Events Update

Kait Hillard, VP of Marketing and Events for GLAZA gave some updates on Zoo events.

- Snow Days was held on February 22 and 23; radio ads ran for this event and it was picked up by various local and national news outlets
- Nickelodeon event with young actors for television segments called "Get Dirty for Earth Day" that will air next month on Nickelodeon

- Character event with Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles held on March 9; attendance was greater than expected
- Disney Nature brought in 20 “Mommy Bloggers” to live tweet their experience at the Zoo; this is in connection with the new Disney Nature movie “Bears”

E. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- Repairs to the lion exhibit are complete and lion will be on exhibit soon
- There are now caiman in the ROA
- Better attendance and revenue for the month of February
- Council Budget and Finance Committee asked the Zoo to appear at a meeting to discuss the Zoo’s current revenue deficit. Mr. Lewis noted that the \$300,000 from the Zoo Enterprise Trust Fund would be used to make up the difference
- Opening of ROA has been set for April 29
- Re-Opening of Bird Show is scheduled for April 10

Mr. Lichtenstien asked who is in charge of the ROA opening. Mr. Lewis noted it was both Zoo and GLAZA staff.

Commission Vice President Silva asked about the repairs to the swan waterfall. Mr. Lewis noted the area has been cleared and they are assessing what to do with the exhibit. Mr. Lewis also stated that reduction in staffing leads to deferred maintenance and the Zoo is unable to fill positions while there is a revenue deficit.

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 Downing so moved and Commission Vice President Silva seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY