



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, May 15, 2012 – 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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<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
Bernardo Silva
Sue Downing, D.V.M.
Kimberly Marteau

VISITORS

Rex Link
Jim Bickhart

MEMBERS ABSENT

Elaine Baylor

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 10:31 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF APRIL 17, 2012

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of April 17, 2012, Commission Vice President Silva so moved, 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
PRESENTATION – WHAT’S AN UNGULATE AND HOW DOES THE L.A. ZOO
MANAGE THEM?**

Curator of Mammals, Jeff Holland, gave an overview of ungulate management.

Highlights included:

- Ungulates are even toed, hoofed animals, with antlers, horns, or tusks
- Camel, llama, pig, peccaries, hippopotamus, deer, buffalo, antelope, sheep, goat, giraffe, and okapi are all ungulates
- LA Zoo has been successful with the management of duikers, babirusas, Peninsular pronghorn, and gerenuks
- Giraffes and Grevy’s zebras are the most popular ungulates and there will be enough of these species in Zoos for the next 100 years
- Ungulates in general are not popular species so many zoos are discontinuing their ungulate breeding and exhibits
- Ungulates require large flat exhibits and areas for rearing offspring; zoo land is limited this is another reason not as many zoos are exhibiting ungulates

**AGENDA ITEM 5
BIRD SHOW RENOVATIONS**

Zoo Director John Lewis presented the Bird Show renovations to the Commission.

- Two donations totaling \$1 million have been received for the renovation of the bird show
- Schematics are going to Building and Safety for approval
- Entire project will be presented to Cultural Affairs
- Changing the stage area from a stylized foam structure to a two story southwest home façade
- There will also be renovations to the holding and keeper areas
- The show will be shut down while renovations are being made; summer weekdays are slow attendance days so there should not be much impact on the visitor experience

**AGENDA ITEM 6
GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

A. Capital Projects

Rebecca Abano 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, \$151.8 million of the \$172.3 million bond budget has been spent
- *LAIR* – over 134 change orders; still some pending changes
- *LAIR* still has three exhibits with heating issues. Animals being housed off exhibit until issues are resolved
- *Rainforest of the Americas* project is 30% complete; working on the Keeper building and Harpy eagle exhibit; project on schedule to be completed in April 2013

B. Animal Transactions

Susie Kasielke, Curator of Birds, discussed the latest animal transactions. Some highlights include:

- Several outgoing animals including, Mexican leaf frog, giant horned lizards, and wallaby
- Incoming laughing kookaburra, Nigerian dwarf goats for the contact yard
- Receiving jumping vipers and hairy nose wombat

C. GLAZA Update

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

- Received nearly \$80,000 in sponsorship funds from groups such as Farmers Insurance and Scholarshare
- Announcement of several new trustees
- Per a Yahoo poll, the Conservation Carousel is the best carousel in the country

D. Media Update

Assistant General Manager, Denise Verret, presented two news clips highlighting the Zoo's record attendance for the month of April; over 215,000 visitors

E. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- Ahead of budgeted revenue for the fiscal year
- Attendance also on target; Earth Day Expo and Sesame Street live both brought visitors to the Zoo
- City currently going through budget hearings; Zoo to get back vacant positions eliminated from budget
- City is currently working on an MOU with GLAZA
- RFP proposals will be considered for next fiscal year

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 moved to adjourn, Vice President Silva seconded and the meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY