



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2016 – 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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Eric Garcetti
Mayor

David E. Ryu
Council Member
4th 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
Tyler Kelley
Marc Mitchell
Yasmine Johnson
Bernardo Silva

VISITORS

Rex Link

EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

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 10:04 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JULY 26, 2016

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of July 26, 2016
Commission Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Kelley seconded and
the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 3

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Carolyn Hennessy discussed her years of traveling the world to gain better knowledge of conservation and species survival. In Asia she saw elephants in deplorable conditions. Every day 96 elephants are killed. The LA Zoo is keeping this species alive. Elephant refuges do not allow elephants to breed, there is little Vet care, and they die lonely. She spent the day observing “Billy” and believes he’s in the best place for him to receive the best care. Too many misinformed activists.



NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

No Comments

AGENDA ITEM 4 - PRESENTATION – EARTHWATCH/DUTTENHAVER TRIP – MONITORING OCELOTS IN TRINIDAD

General Curator, Beth Schaefer, Curator of Education, Dan Keeffe, Senior Keeper Robin Noll and six students discussed their trip to Trinidad. Students shared the following highlights:

- Chiara discussed the Hamgel Field Station where the group stayed
- Chole talked about the weather and the dry/wet seasons Trinidad experiences
- Imanueljah described the Asa Wright Nature Center
- Dahlia talked about the various wildlife they observed; not just ocelots but also various birds and stray dogs
- Viviana reminisced about just being immersed in the rainforest and how she used the time not just for study but also self-reflection
- Tatiana explained what the experience of learning about a different culture meant to her; material possessions are not important there like in the US

Chaperons discussed the basics of the trip and how students are picked for these yearly field study trips.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW CURATORS

General Curator, Beth Schaefer, noted that two curators had retired and another took a job at another facility. The three new curators are Mike Maxcy, Candace Scimenti, and Josh Sisk

AGENDA ITEM 6 – CA CONDOR TRAINING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

Curator Mike Maxcy introduced a few members of the condor team including Mike Clark who presented the history of CA condor program. Highlights included:

- Condor program began in 1967 with captive breeding beginning in 1988
- Though several organizations are involved with the CA Condor program, the Los Angeles Zoo is the leader in captive breeding
- Los Angeles Zoo created the captive breeding program using puppets to feed young birds that are to be released back to the wild
- Due to extensive rock climbing and repelling courses the LA Zoo staff has been in more wild nests than any other group to check birds, remove/replace eggs, and general observation
- The Los Angeles Zoo is the first zoo to have a CA condor as an ambassador animal; “Dolly” has made appearances at various events as well as zoo events

Some discussion about eventually having a CA condor exhibit at the Zoo. Commissioners thanked condor staff for all the hard work they do.

AGENDA ITEM 7

GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Animal Transactions

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

- Will be receiving a female cape vulture for our collection
- Blackheaded weavers are on exhibit in the renovated roundhouse
- Will be receiving a harbor seal pup
- Sending our male hippo to Dallas for breeding; mom and baby will remain at the LA Zoo

B. GLAZA Update

GLAZA Vice President Genie Vasels gave an update on GLAZA activities:

- Received \$15,000 from new donor to name two animals
- Received \$25,000 from a foundation for our education programs
- Working on this year's Beastly Ball; date may move to May instead of June

C. GLAZA/Marketing and Events Update

Kait Hilliard, Vice President of GLAZA gave an overview of events and marketing efforts:

- Raised prices for summer evening events and there was a decline in attendance
- Brew at the Zoo also raised ticket prices and the event was smaller this year
- On September 6 staff gave members of AZA a pre-conference tour of the zoo
- Over 2,300 visitors toured the elephant barn for Elephant Awareness Weekend
- Boo at the Zoo will again be the entire month of October
- Working on Zoo Lights and preparations to kick off our 50th Anniversary celebration

D. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- Staff have begun having Master Plan workshops; eventually will provide the Commission with a presentation
- Attended the AZA Annual Conference in San Diego
- Los Angeles Zoo won a conservation award for the work we did with GRACE
- The Los Angeles Zoo is up for accreditation again; accreditation site visit will be sometime in December with results given at the AZA Mid-Year conference in March
- August attendance and revenue were below projections

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. Commission Vice President Silva so moved the meeting be adjourned and Commissioner Johnson seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY