



# MINUTES

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 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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California 90027  
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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  
Sue Downing, D.V.M.  
Kimberly Marteau  
Bernardo Silva

### MEMBERS ABSENT

Elaine Baylor

### EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

Richard Lichtenstein

### COMMISSION STAFF

John R. Lewis  
Lisa Gerencser

### CITY ATTORNEY LIAISON

Kim Miera

### AGENDA ITEM 1

#### CALL TO ORDER

Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:11 AM.

### AGENDA ITEM 2

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

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of August 21, 2012 Commissioner Silva so moved, Commissioner Downing seconded and the motion passed.

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### VISITORS

Rex Link  
Jim Bickhart

### MEDIA

None signed in.



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of Zoos and Aquariums

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Association of Museums

Member of the California  
Association of Zoos and Aquariums

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4**

##### **ELECTION OF COMMISSION OFFICERS**

Vice President Silva moved to nominate President Winnick for another term; Commissioner Marteau seconded and the Board concurred with a voice vote in the affirmative. President Winnick moved to nominate Vice President Silva for another term; Commissioner Marteau seconded and the Board concurred with a voice vote in the affirmative.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5**

##### **PROPOSED COMMISSION MEETING DATES FOR 2013**

Proposed dates reviewed and approved by the Board of Zoo Commissioners.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6**

##### **PRESENTATION NATURE AND NUTURE – ZOO'S NURSERY**

Senior Animal Keeper Kelley Greene gave an overview of the various activities and animals that are cared for in the Zoo's nursery. Even though it would always be best to have offspring raised by their parents, it is not always possibility. Some highlights included:

- Gerenuks are hand reared to help with their "flighty" temperament
- Young takin was hand reared after its mother fell ill and was unable to care for the calf
- Keepers used a Golden Labrador puppy to help rear a maned wolf orphan; this allowed the wolf to observe typical canine behaviors
- For tamarin offspring, keepers utilized a stuffed "surrogate" and eventually the adult male tamarin to assist with feedings
- Occasionally animals confiscated by USFWS are housed in the nursery as there is no other location for them, as was the case with the pangolin
- Giant otters were hand raised in the nursery due to their mother not allowing the pups to feed

Commissioner Marteau asked if this presentation could be added to our website or made into a DVD to distribute to teachers.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5**

##### **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, \$154.2 million of the \$171.8 million bond budget has been spent
- *Rainforest of the Americas* project is 45% complete. Working on harpy eagle and otter holding
- A revised construction schedule is needed
- At the next Zoo Bond Oversight Meeting they will discuss what to do with the potential savings from all the capital projects; suggestions are a jaguar exhibit, a park behind the CDC, or a Master Plan consultant

## **B. Animal Transactions**

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

- Several outgoing animals including: roadrunners, Speke's gazelle, and the transfer of a Sumatran tiger from Ft. Worth Zoo to Toronoto Zoo
- Male Chinese goral going to The Wilds
- Receiving a very valuable female Harpy eagle

## **C. GLAZA Update**

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

- Continuing fundraising efforts for naming opportunities for the Rainforest of Americas
- New trustee – Erika Stern
- GLAZA hosting Dr. Natterson's "Zoobiquity" book signing on September 20.

Ex-Officio member Lichtenstein asked Ms. Morgan to give an update on privatization. Ms. Morgan stated that GLAZA has been in negotiations with the City all summer. City Attorney Miera noted this item was not on the agenda and should not be discussed. Mr. Lichtenstein stated he'd like the Zoo Commission to get an update. Again Ms. Miera stated this can not be discussed. President Winnick asked that "Privatization" be on the next Commission agenda.

## **D. Media Update**

Jason Jacobs, Director of Public Relations and Marketing showed a clip featuring Jane Goodall that aired on *Entertainment Tonight*. Ms. Goodall was interviewed at the LA Zoo in front of the chimpanzee exhibit; Ms. Goodall is promoted *Disney's "Chimpanzee"* nature film.

## **E. Zoo Director Reports**

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- Grey seals have been moved to the *Sea Life Cliffs* exhibit and have been introduced to the harbor seals
- Birth of rattleless rattlesnakes
- *Elephants of Asia* exhibit won "Significant Achievement" Award during AZA's annual conference
- Hot weather has impacted our attendance in August and September but the Zoo is still on track for YTD attendance and revenue
- "Zoobiquity" conference will be held on September 29, 2012
- All repairs to exhibits within *LAIR* have been completed

Vice President Silva asked John Lewis to clarify and give a little more detail regarding plans for the cost savings from the Zoo's capital projects. Mr. Lewis stated they'd have a report from BOE at the next Zoo Bond Oversight meeting. Vice President Silva stated he'd like the Commission to be able to discuss the cost savings. Mr. Lewis will forward BOE's report via email once it is received. President Winnick

voiced her support for a new jaguar exhibit; she would like the Commission to review all options and make suggestions on how to expend the projects savings.

**AGENDA ITEM 8  
OLD BUSINESS**

None

**AGENDA 9  
CLOSED SESSION**

President Winnick stated the Commission will meet in closed session with legal counsel under Government Code 54956.9 (a) to discuss existing litigation of Robert Culp and Aaron Leider v. John Lewis, City of Los Angeles, Case No. BC 375234.

President Winnick asked for a motion to move into Closed Session, Vice President Silva so moved and Commissioner Marteau seconded, motion passed and at 11:10 AM the Commission entered into Closed Session.

Commission adjourned from Closed Session at 12:03 PM with no action taken during the Closed Session.

**AGENDA ITEM 9  
ADJOURNMENT**

There being no more business to come before the Commission President Winnick called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice President Silva moved to adjourn, Commissioner Marteau seconded and the meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM.

ATTEST:

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY