



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2013 – 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
5333 Zoo Drive
Los Angeles
California 90027
323/644-4200
Fax 323/662-9786
<http://www.lazoo.org>

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen B. Winnick
Bernardo Silva
Sue Downing, DVM

VISITORS

Rex Link
Luciana Giorgio

Eric Garcetti
Mayor

EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT

Richard Lichtenstein

Tom LaBonge
Council Member
4th District

COMMISSION STAFF

John R. Lewis
Lisa Gerencser

MEDIA

None signed in.

Zoo Commissioners

Karen B. Winnick
President

CITY ATTORNEY LIAISON

Dov Lesel

Bernardo Silva
Vice President

AGENDA ITEM 1

CALL TO ORDER

Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

Sue Downing, D.V.M.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JULY 17, 2013

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of July 17, 2013. Commission Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Downing seconded and the motion passed.

Richard Lichtenstein
ex officio member

John R. Lewis
Zoo Director

AGENDA ITEM 3

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None



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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
UPDATE ON CHIMPANZEE INTRODUCTIONS**

Senior Animal Keeper Candace Scilimenti discussed the introductions of the three new chimp offspring to the rest of the chimpanzee group. The Zoo currently has 17 chimpanzees spanning four generations. Ms. Scilimenti explained the fission-fusion management of the chimpanzee group; chimpanzees are divided into smaller groups such as maternal. Currently three of the Zoo's males have been introduced to the maternal group with the young chimps; there are no plans to introduce the alpha male "Ripley" to the young chimps.

**AGENDA ITEM 5
PRESENTATION – LEAD TOXICITY IN CALIFORNIA CONDORS**

Chief Veterinarian Dr. Curtis Eng gave a presentation on lead toxicity and how it is effecting the California condors. There are currently 429 California condors; 205 in captivity and 224 in the wild. Lead toxicity is the leading cause of death for condors. California condors become exposed to lead after scavenging on carcasses that have been shot with lead bullets or when the birds themselves are shot; interestingly condors have more toxicity by consuming lead than by being shot. Discussion about Senate bills that have limited use of lead ammunition and the Senate Bill that would ban all lead ammunition in the State of California. National Rifle Association (NRA) has referred to the LA Zoo and other Zoos working with the condor program as "enemies" who are against hunting; Dr. Eng reiterated that the Condor program is not anti-hunting, just anti-lead ammunition.

**AGENDA ITEM 6
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 87% complete.
- Have spent \$161.8 million on capital projects to date.
- Work continues on ROA – stilt house, life support systems, and caging
- Contractor has extended completion date to October 31, 2013 for ROA; BOE is looking at possible alternative delivery methods for the jaguar exhibit.

B. Animal Transactions

Ian Recchio, Curator of Reptiles discussed the latest animal transactions. Some highlights include:

- Loaning a female koala to Lowry Park Zoo for breeding
- Receiving short eared elephant shrews for Desert Trail at Winnick Family Children's Zoo
- Receiving Hyacinth macaws for new Bird Show
- Receiving male Sarus crane for breeding

Commission President Winnick inquired about some deaths listed on the animal status report. Dr. Curtis Eng addressed those questions.

C. GLAZA Update

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

- In process of securing gifts to close out outstanding debt on *Elephants of Asia*
- Received \$15,000 from Toyota for an educational poster to accompany the opening of ROA
- As of July 1, 2013, GLAZA took over marketing and special events for the LA Zoo; Ms. Morgan introduced new staff to commission

D. Marketing and Special Events Update

Kait Hilliard, Vice President of Marketing for GLAZA gave an update on marketing and event activities.

- For the month of September the Zoo is holding “Cool at the Zoo”; event includes ice sculptures, mobile mural, and animated shorts shown in the Witherbee Auditorium
- “Cool at the Zoo” is being advertised on CBS radio stations with a 15 second spot
- “The Great Nature Project” is a National Geographic event that the Zoo will be collaborating on to create the largest online depository of animal photographs
- Several promotions including Ralphs/Pepsi, Honda, and the LA County Fair
- Next month “Boo at the Zoo” will be two weekends and GLAZA will be premiering an adult Halloween event called “Night of the Living Zoo”.

E. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- The Zoo received the Significant Achievement Award at the AZA Annual Conference for the LAIR marketing campaign
- Next month the Zoo will host the Orangutan SSP Workshop
- Attendance is 2% below projections; extreme warm weather was the main factor for decreased attendance
- Made note of new Commissioner who was before the Council regarding her appointment at the time of this Commission meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 6
OLD BUSINESS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 7
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 11:27 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY