



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015 – 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

Tom LaBonge
Council Member
4th District

Zoo Commissioners

Karen B. Winnick
President

Bernardo Silva
Vice President

Yasmine Johnson

Tyler Kelley

Marc Mitchell

Richard Lichtenstein
ex officio member

John R. Lewis
Zoo Director

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen B. Winnick
Bernardo Silva
Yasmine Johnson
Tyler Kelley

VISITORS

Rex Link
Thomas Breckner
Leslie Shim

MEMBERS ABSENT

Marc Mitchell

EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT

Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF

John R. Lewis
Denise Tamura

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 10:06AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF APRIL 21, 2015

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of April 21, 2015. Commission Vice-President Silva so moved, Commissioner Johnson 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
HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION OVERVIEW**

Mae Huey, Senior Personnel Analyst I, provided an overview of the Human Resources Division. This Division is responsible for the following:

- Manage all employment matters for 300 employees (part time and full time), employee selection and hiring process, posting of internal and external positions, employment verification, new employee orientation
- Liaison Services – advise managers and supervisors on personnel issues, work with other City Departments, employee benefits information, employee training
- Labor Relations – MOU negotiations, grievances, disciplinary investigations/hearings, appeal hearing, EEO, Workplace Violence, Sexual Harassment and FMLA Coordinator
- Workers' Compensation/Safety – injuries on duty, evaluation of permanent restriction/ worksite accommodations, temporary modified duty, safety training, TB training CPR training, confined space training, fire extinguisher servicing/training/inventory
- City Volunteer Program – Oversee 62 volunteers in Animal Care and Animal Health divisions, orientation, work with Animal Care on placement

**AGENDA ITEM 5
GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

A. Capital Projects

Darryl Pon, Zoo Project Manager, provided a brief update on the following Zoo projects accompanied with a slide show of the work progression:

- Through April 2015, \$169 million has spent on capital projects
- Jaguar exhibit is complete. Animals now in exhibit
- Shade elements will be added to lily pad area at Rainforest of the Americas project
- BOE will be returning a portion of the north parking lot back to parking spaces now that it is no longer needed as a laydown area for exhibit construction
- BOE assisted Zoo with structural evaluation of black necked swan waterfall

Vice President Silva inquired if there were any outstanding change orders for Rainforest of the Americas exhibit. Mr. Pon replied no. Vice President Silva inquired if there were any savings identified after completion of Master Plan projects. Mr. John Lewis, Zoo Director, replied there will be a minimal amount to be returned to the City as part of their funding allocation to the projects.

B. Animal Transactions

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

- Sunburst diving beetles – staff has been breeding them and is able to sell them to other institutions
- A California condor mentoring bird will be temporarily housed at the Zoo while its holding area is being repaired at Pinnacles National Park
- Will be receiving a spectacled owl and white-faced owl for outreach program and Bird Show

President Winnick inquired about the male blue-eyed lemur death listed in the report. Ms. Schaefer and Dr. Cindy Stadler reported this was an older male, not the younger male lemur most recently acquired for breeding.

C. GLAZA Update

Jeb Bonner, Chief Financial Officer of GLAZA provided an update:

- Have reached budget goal for unrestricted accounts

- Recent donations include funding for orangutan mesh, bird show renovation and equipment, Zoo Camp and Elephants of Asia
- Staff continues preparations for Dream Night private event being held June 5
- Staff is working on preparations for Beastly Ball

D. Zoo Director Reports

John Lewis, Zoo Director, commented on the following:

- Several new births including Nubian ibex and Gray's monitor. The Gray's monitor lizard hatching is very significant since the only other recorded hatching in captivity in the western world occurred at the Dallas Zoo and it died shortly after hatching.
- Jaguar exhibit is officially opening to the public this Friday.
- A pair of sarus cranes are being introduced to the exhibit and each other.
- Mesh installation at the orangutan and chimpanzee exhibits is finished. Staff is installing shade and climbing structure. One exhibit is currently open to the orangutans and it is anticipated the remaining two exhibits will be opening soon
- Attendance is ahead of projections while revenues continue to be behind.
- Next week the Zoo is co-hosting an exclusive advance screening of an episode of the KCET program Earth Focus titled "Illicit Ivory" which discusses the illegal ivory trade
- Participated in Endangered Species Day on May 15 & 16 which coincided with the launch of AZA's SAFE (Saving Animals from Extinction) program
- The Zoo worked with the 15 City Council districts to have an entire third grade of a school in their district visit the Zoo along with transportation and a docent-guided tour, free of charge through the ZooPals Scholarship program. All 15 council districts participated and with some Councilmembers joining them for part of the trip. President Winnick noted this is a great opportunity provided and encouraged the Zoo to provide this on an annual basis.
- Zoo tickets can now be purchased from mobile/smartphone website; the front gate can scan code from patron's phone so visitors don't need to wait in ticketing lines. Working on signage at front entrance to inform visitors of new program.
- Fourth Amendment w/GLAZA for PR/Marketing and Special Events was approved by City Council which addresses inclusion of night time revenues with gate revenues.

AGENDA ITEM #6

OLD BUSINESS

Vice President Silva inquired about the status of glass repair at the LAIR exhibit. Mr. Lewis replied this has been repaired and is now completed.

Vice President Silva inquired about the status of the RFP for Concessions. Mr. Lewis reported that the Zoo submitted its report and it is expected to be discussed after the budget process is complete.

AGENDA ITEM #7

ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business to come before, President Winnick motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Johnson so moved and Vice President Silva seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:44AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY