



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2016 – 10:00 AM

Los Angeles Zoo
Grand Room
5333 Zoo Drive

Los Angeles, California 90027

*“Creating
dynamic
experiences
to connect
people and
animals”*

Los Angeles Zoo
5333 Zoo Drive
Los Angeles
California 90027
323/644-4200
Fax 323/662-9786
<http://www.lazoo.org>

Eric Garcetti
Mayor

David E. Ryu
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
Marc Mitchell

VISITORS

Kiersten Cluster
Shirley Duffer
Zachia Nazarzai

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tyler Kelley

EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF

Denise M. Verret
Denise Tamura

MEDIA

none signed in

CITY ATTORNEY LIAISON

Laurie Rittenberg

AGENDA ITEM 1

CALL TO ORDER

Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:04AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15, 2016

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of November 15, 2016. Commission Vice-President Silva so moved, Commissioner Yasmine Johnson seconded and the motion passed.



**AGENDA ITEM 3
GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Kiersten Cluster, Elephant Guardians of Los Angeles representative, read an excerpt from Joyce Poole's declaration in *Leider vs. City of Los Angeles* which states "that the current and proposed exhibits at the Los Angeles Zoo cannot and will not be able to provide a healthy and humane environment for any of their elephants, regardless of how many millions of dollars they spend to make the area look nice to human observers."

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

No comments.

**AGENDA ITEM 4
INTERNATIONAL GORILLA WORKSHOP**

Beth Schaefer, General Curator, provided an overview of the recent International Gorilla Workshop she attended in Guadalajara, Mexico. Highlights included discussion of laws in Mexico as they pertain to primates, the Great Ape Heart project and educating other workshop participants of the GRACE project.

**AGENDA ITEM 5
GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

A. Animal Transactions

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

- Acquisition of trumpeter swan pair for breeding
- Acquisition of two young female sacred ibis to establish breeding pairs
- Acquisition of Caucasian viper trio for breeding
- Acquisition of smoky jungle frogs for mixed species display with bushmasters
- Acquisition of male crested oropendola to establish breeding pairs
- Loan transfer of Burmese star tortoise group
- Recent births include: golden-tailed gecko, female giraffe, gerenuk

B. GLAZA Update

Connie Morgan, GLAZA President, provided an update:

- Gifts this past month include \$1.5 million for CDC Park, \$200,000 for botanical and animal exhibitry, \$12,000 for x-ray machine, \$50,000 for Papiano Playpark refurbishment and \$10,000 for ZooPals.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Lichtenstein, Ms. Morgan noted that this year's ZooLights program is exceeding projections. Also, Beastly Ball will be held on May 20, 2017.

C. Zoo Director Reports

Denise Verret, Deputy Director, commented on the following:

- The Zoo's new giraffe feeding encounter officially started on November 19. It is offered twice a day, 11:00AM and 2:30PM. Over 2,000 visitors have participated to date.
- November's attendance was above projections; 7% above year-to-date projections
- November's revenue was below projections; 6% above year-to-date projections
- Master Plan public community meeting held December 6 with 52 attendees. At the meeting, representatives discussed the master plan process and how the public can participate. The microsite, www.lazoomasterplan.com, was announced where public can leave comments,

subscribe to updates and participate in a survey. Next public meeting is tentatively scheduled for February. Commission Vice President Silva inquired how the recent workshops went; Ms. Verret noted they were very productive and continue to proceed in a positive manner.

- The Zoo completed its AZA Accreditation inspection last week. Overall, it went well. Mr. Lewis will be able to provide the Commission with additional information next month.

**AGENDA ITEM 6
OLD BUSINESS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 7
ADJOURNMENT**

There being no more business to come before, Commission President Winnick motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Johnson so moved and Commission Vice President Silva seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:27AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY