



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, December 15, 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

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
Bernardo Silva
Tyler Kelley
Marc Mitchell
Yasmine Johnson

VISITORS

Rex Link

EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF

John R. Lewis
Lisa Gerencser

MEDIA

None signed in.

CITY ATTORNEY LIAISON

Dov Lesel

AGENDA ITEM 1

CALL TO ORDER

Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 2015

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of November 17, 2015. Commissioner Johnson so moved, Commission Vice President Silva seconded and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 3

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None



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Employment
Opportunity
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Employer

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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

PRESENTATION – ANIMAL KEEPER EXCHANGE WITH BERLIN ZOO

Animal Keepers Kris Willis and Art Gonzales gave a presentation on their Keeper Exchange experience. This exchange program was a collaborative effort by both former City Councilmember Tom LaBonge and Curator of Mammals Jeff Holland along with staff from the Berlin Zoo. During the last two weeks of May 2015 two Keepers from Berlin came to the LA Zoo; the end of August the LA Zoo's Keepers went to Berlin.

Ms. Willis and Mr. Gonzales split their time in Berlin between the Berlin Zoo and Tierpark. Ms. Willis worked and discussed Seal husbandry at the Berlin Zoo, while at Tierpark she spent time with hoofstock and marsupials. Mr. Gonzales worked with hippos, okapi, and various monkeys. There was discussion about animal diets and exhibit designs. The Keepers thanked their staff, supervisors and former Councilmember Tom LaBonge for initiating this exchange.

Council President Winnick asked the keepers if they will be implementing anything they learned in Berlin here at the LA Zoo. Ms. Willis said she's interested in implementing some of the enrichment/feedings. Mr. Gonzales said he hopes the LA Zoo can work on a new design for the hippo exhibit utilizing some of the exhibit design he saw in Berlin.

Former Councilmember Tom LaBonge was in attendance and asked to give a few words about the Keeper Exchange. Mr. LaBonge thanked both Zoo Directors for allowing this exchange to take place. Mr. LaBonge emphasized the importance of travel especially for specialized jobs such as Keepers. Mr. LaBonge thanked the LA Zoo Commission for all the work they do for the LA Zoo. Both Commission President and Vice President thanked Mr. LaBonge for all he's done for the Zoo and for being the Zoo's advocate in City Council.

AGENDA ITEM 5

GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Capital Projects

No Report

B. Animal Transactions

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

- Incoming male Ibex for breeding
- Incoming big horn sheep for breeding
- Exchanging four red rumped agoutis for a female wombat to pair with our male

C. GLAZA Update

Connie Morgan, President of GLAZA gave an update:

- Received \$25,000 restricted funds for the ocelot exhibit
- Received \$5,000 for Zoo Lights
- Currently raising funds for Health Center equipment

D. GLAZA Marketing and Events Update

Kait Hilliard, Vice President of Marketing for GLAZA gave an update on Zoo Lights:

- To date, 88,000 tickets have been sold
- Over 70,000 have already attended the event
- Concessions revenue is ahead of where it was at this same time last year
- Multiple news segments on LA Zoo Lights

- Vote the LA Zoo Lights as a top holiday lights experience via USA Today

Commissioner Johnson noted she's seen an increase online in publicity for Zoo Lights. Commissioner Mitchell asked if she knew the exact number of people who attended opening night; Kait stated 8,234 attended opening night. Discussion about LAPD handling security for the event.

E. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- Held a press event this morning to announce the arrival of the Zoo's Tasmanian devils
- Black howler monkey was born
- Attendance is ahead while revenue continues to be behind
- In January Council will be discussing the Concessions of the LA Zoo; whether an RFP is needed by the Zoo or if GLAZA can extend their concessions agreement. Mr. Lewis has made a verbal recommendation that GLAZA continue with the concessions at the Zoo
- Discussions with BOE regarding repair of the swan waterfall and redesign of the meerkat exhibit

Ex-Officio Member Lichtenstein asked why an RFP is not currently being created for the Concessions program. Mr. Lewis noted there are reports due to Council before an RFP will be completed.

Commission Vice President Silva asked again to have copies of current MOUs with GLAZA.

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. Commission Vice President Silva so moved the meeting be adjourned and Commissioner Mitchell seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:43 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY