



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, October 20, 2015 – 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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Los Angeles
California 90027
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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

VISITORS

Rex Link
Renee Weitzer

MEMBERS ABSENT

Yasmine Johnson

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 AUGUST 18, 2015

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of August 18, 2015. Commission Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Mitchell 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

PROPOSED COMMISSION MEETING DATE 2016

Proposed dates for 2016 meetings were unanimously approved.

AGENDA ITEM 5

PRESENTATION – COUNCILMEMBER MITCH O’FARRELL COUNCIL DISTRICT 13

Councilmember O’Farrell who sits as the chair of the Arts, Parks and River Council Committee came to introduce himself to the Zoo Commission. The Councilmember thanked the Zoo Commission for all the work they do. The Councilmember chairs the committee the Zoo Department often reports to. The Councilmember shared a story about volunteering at the Wildlife Waystation and expressed his love of animals and the importance of Zoos. Vice President Silva asked the Councilmember if he has an update on the Sign District Ordinance; Councilmember reiterated it is still pending in committee. President Winnick thanked the Councilmember for being such a strong advocate for us in City Council.

AGENDA ITEM 6

PRESENTATION – EARTHWATCH/DUTTENHAVER TRIP – WILDLIFE IN THE CHANGING FRENCH PYRENEES

Presentation was given by Neal Ward, Graphics Manager, Dorothy Belanger, Senior Animal Keeper, and Andrew Lyell, Senior Gardener. These three staff persons along with seven high school students traveled from Los Angeles to the French Pyrenees in July. Highlights included:

- Daily meetings to discuss days itinerary and gather equipment
- Worked with small mammal traps to tag and release animals
- Assisted with nesting boxes
- Identifying wildflowers and blooming times in correlation with climate change and bee pollination
- Replace and check camera traps

President Winnick asked how long the group was there and what were the results of their findings. Neal Ward stated they were there for 10 days and there are no results as the study is ongoing. Discussion about student application process.

AGENDA ITEM 7

GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Capital Projects

Mr. Darryl Pon, head of Zoo Planning discussed projects.

- Laydown area in parking lot has been cleared and will be paved and restriped this week; this adds 160 parking spaces to the lot
- Electrical Vehicle charging stations have been installed near the CDC; cooperative project with Adopt-A-Charger and DWP
- Will be placing a shade structure over lily pads at ROA

B. Animal Transactions

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

- Female Sumatran tiger identified to be brought in to mate with our male tiger
- Received a new goliath bird eating tarantula
- Births of red and black duikers
- Second clutch of Greys monitors have hatched
- Cape rock lizards on display in the desert LAIR building

C. GLAZA Update

Genie Vasels, Vice President of GLAZA gave an update:

- Received \$5,000 from LAFCU for zoo camps
- Received \$1,000,000 donation to be used over five years for both botanical and animal projects
- \$16,000 received for water conservation poster
- \$685,000 undesignated donation received and used for EOA payment

Commissioner Mitchell asked what the remaining debt is on EOA and Ms. Vasels did not have an answer.

D. Marketing and Events Update

Kait Hilliard, VP for Marketing and Events at GLAZA gave an update on events and marketing efforts.

- Radio traffic sponsorship used in the month of September
- Heat and rain affected the paid admissions attendance for the month
- Latino Heritage was held on the last weekend of September; with only 7,600 visitors this event will no longer be held
- “Boo at the Zoo” is a month long event with trick or treating on three days. Marketing campaign focused on animals and not candy
- “Zoo Lights” already being installed. Expanded route this year and different pricing levels
- GLAZA was able to work with LAWA on getting Zoo advertising at the Los Angeles World Airport

E. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- 12 California condors have been released
- Attendance was on target but revenue continues to be behind.
- Selected Chief Veterinarian Lisa Naples to head the Health Center
- RFP for Master Plan being reviewed; hope for selection by December
- AB96, Ivory Ban, has passed
- Will be revising the Business and Marketing Plan to be a five year plan

AGENDA ITEM 7

OLD BUSINESS

None

**AGENDA ITEM 8
ADJOURNMENT**

There being no more business to come before, President Winnick motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Mitchell so moved and Commission Vice President Silva seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY