MINUTES
BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016 – 10:00 AM

Los Angeles Zoo
Grand Room
5333 Zoo Drive
Los Angeles, California 90027

Members Present
Karen B. Winnick
Bernardo Silva
Tyler Kelley
Marc Mitchell

Members Absent
Yasmine Johnson

EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT
Richard Lichtenstein

Commission Staff
John R. Lewis
Lisa Gerencser

City Attorney Liaison
Absent

AGENDA ITEM 1
CALL TO ORDER
Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2
APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF DECEMBER 15, 2015
Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of December 15, 2015. Commissioner Mitchell so moved, Commission Vice President Silva seconded and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 3
GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT
None
AGENDA ITEM 4 (Taken out of order)
PRESENTATION – COUNCIL DISTRICT FOUR – COUNCILMEMBER DAVID E. RYU
Councilmember Ryu introduced himself to the Zoo Commission and staff. The Councilmember has now been office seven months and he hopes to come before the Commission again in the future to discuss the Zoo. Councilmember Ryu discussed the importance of Griffith Park and all the attractions within the park. Budget cuts hurt parks, libraries and the Zoo; there is hope to reinvest in these important City assets.

Commission Vice President Silva asked about revenue streams for the Zoo and specifically asked about the zoo becoming its own sign district. Councilmember Ryu stated he will work Neighborhood Councils and the PLUM committee to assist the Zoo and will look for alternate revenue streams as well.

Ex-Officio Member Lichtenstein asked the Councilmember about improving public transportation to the Zoo. Councilmember Ryu stressed the importance of the traffic issues surrounding the park and will be working with neighborhood councils, Bureau of Street Services to discuss public transportation options for the entire park.

Commission President Winnick asked about receiving money for Zoo staffing. Councilmember remarked about the importance of the Zoo and that since he sits on the AP&R and PAWS committee for Council he will do his best to have reinvestment into the zoo.

Commissioner Mitchell asked the Councilmember what his main priority is for Griffith Park. Councilmember restated public transportation, public safety and then guest management for the park.

Councilmember Ryu thanked the Commission for their time and stated he was looking forward to his Zoo Tour by Zoo Director John Lewis.

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:
- Reptile keepers have successfully bred bushmaster and will be sending off spring to other zoos
- Success with breeding brushtail bettongs so sending animals to San Diego
- Pudu was born
Commission President Winnick asked about the giant otter pup deaths. Chief Veterinarian, Dr. Lisa Naples explained some of the pups were born with injuries and infections; one pup survived and is thriving

C. GLAZA Update
Connie Morgan, President of GLAZA gave an update:
- Have received five gifts for x-ray equipment for the Health Center
- Revived and additional $12,000 for bird show
- Working on CHLA Dream Night
• Informed Commission of a new Trustee by the name of Michael Bustamante

1. **Zoo Lights Update**
Kait Hilliard, Vice President of Marketing for GLAZA gave an update on the overall Zoo Lights event:

- Ten percent (10%) of Zoo Lights admissions is put towards day time admission numbers
- The event was 36 nights with two special events during the event
- With variable pricing there were slightly fewer visitors but increased revenue from ticket sales (2014 – 170,851 visitors; 2015 – 167,367 visitors)
- Voted #10 of “Top 10 Zoo Lights” by USA Today
- Many sponsors helped create this event
- There are no concessions revenue numbers yet

E. **Zoo Director Reports**
Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- Working on the repair to the piranha tank; should re-open in February
- Holding the finalist interview tomorrow for the Zoo’s RFP Master Plan; Mr. Liechtenstein asked Mr. Lewis to explain the entire RFP lengthy process to the Commission. Mr. Lewis noted he’d email the Commissioners if they wanted that information
- The Appellate Court ruled (Culp/Leider Case) that the Zoo must continue to rototill and exercise the elephants
- Attendance is up for January but we are still behind on revenue; also have not received revenue information from GLAZA

1. **EL NINO PREPARATIONS**
   Mr. Lewis discussed the Zoo Department’s preparations for the predicted El Nino season. Staff has been utilizing sand bags and clearing all drains. The Zoo is prepared for this weather event.

**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 Mitchell so moved the meeting be adjourned and Commission Vice President Silva seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:49 AM.

**ATTEST:**

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PRESIDENT      SECRETARY