



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

*“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

Renee Weitzer

MEMEBERS ABSENT

Yasmine Johnson

EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF

John R. Lewis
Lisa Gerencser

MEDIA

None signed in.

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



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 (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:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY