



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016 – 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
Tyler Kelley
Marc Mitchell

VISITORS

Rex Link

MEMEBERS ABSENT

Yasmine Johnson
Bernardo Silva

EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT

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 JANUARY 19, 2016

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of January 19, 2016 Commissioner Mitchell so moved, Commissioner Kelley 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 - PRESENTATION – NORTH HOLLYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL ZOO MAGNET PROGRAM

Heather Shields, Zoo Curator of Education, and Kay Benitez, Administrative Coordinator for the Zoo Magnet gave a presentation on the collaborative efforts of LAUSD and the LA Zoo. Mrs. Shields began with a brief history of the program that started in 1980 with its actual campus being in place in 1981. The first year the program had 50 students.

Mrs. Benitez noted she is an alum from the high school having graduated in 1991. First she came back to teach and last year was appointed the Administrator position. Currently there are 300 students enrolled this year for grades 9 – 12th. Discussion about courses offered at the Zoo Magnet and extracurricular activities students are involved in back on the official school campus.

Mrs. Shields noted this is the only cooperative program of its kind in CA. The school is allowed to use the Zoo for assemblies and dances. More discussion about hands on courses offered to students on Zoo grounds. The school has a 100% graduation rate. Many students come back to teach or come back for “Career Days” to help mentor the students. School is completely funded through LAUSD and their own Parent Council for the Zoo Magnet.

AGENDA ITEM 5 GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Animal Transactions

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

- Sent black-yellow and Zimmerman’s poisonous frogs to the TN Aquarium
- Trading Nubian ibex group for a breeding group
- Grevy’s zebras are back and they are a breeding group.

B. GLAZA Update

Genie Vasel, Vice President of GLAZA gave an update:

- Linda Duttenhaver has continued to overwrite all costs for the EarthWatch trip next year. It’s a yearly \$50,000 gift.

C. Marketing and Events Update

Kait Hilliard, Vice President of Marketing and Events gave a brief update:

- Reindeer Romp was successful again bringing in 14% more attendance
- Sold out tickets the “Sex and the City Zoo” lecture
- GLAZA is doing away with weekend events in winter and will be moving to month long celebrations
- Zoo received great coverage for their PR stories on Tasmania Devils, Francois Langurs, and the new Hippo Encounter

D. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- Orangutans from New Zealand are being quarantined on exhibit; hope to make public debut in May
- Attendance is ahead by 4% with revenue still behind 9%.
- Piranha glass has been replaced. Water being added and adjusted so the fish can return to their exhibit as soon as possible

- Conducted interviews with groups for the Zoo's Master Plan RFP. Zoo had selected Torre Design out of New Orleans. Working on transmittal to Mayor followed by actual negotiating of the contract with Torre Design. Hope to begin in May
- Discussion about City Council committee meeting regarding expired and current MOUs between the Zoo and GLAZA. Zoo will report back in 60 days regarding these MOUs.

**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 Commissioner Kelley seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY