



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 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
Yasmine Johnson
Bernardo Silva

VISITORS

Rex Link

EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF

John R. Lewis
Lisa Gerencser

MEDIA

None signed in.

CITY ATTORNEY LIAISON

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AGENDA ITEM 1

CALL TO ORDER

Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MARCH 15, 2016

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of March 15, 2016
Commission Vice President Silva 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 – EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Jim Edwards from the Zoo's Human Resources Division gave an overview of the Zoo's emergency procedures.

- The Zoo has governing documents and procedures for every emergency (Natural Disaster, Human Caused, and Employee/Patron injury)
- Each procedure consists of a plan for response, communication, and recovery
- In all emergencies, personnel will use radios, cell phones, land lines, and emails to communicate with staff

Each year, the Zoo holds drills for these procedures including: Evacuation, Earthquake, and Fire.

Commission President Winnick asked if the Zoo had any issues with heavy winds last week. Mr. Edwards noted we did not have issues this time but we have previously evacuated the Zoo due to heavy winds.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – PRESENTATION – CHIMPANZEES OF GABON

Senior Animal Keeper Candace Sclimenti traveled to Gabon in January to create the first chimpanzee refuge. In 2013 all bio-med studies on various primates was abolished and these test animals needed a place to live out their days. Animals included chimpanzees and mandrills. Highlights of the month long experience included:

- Improvement of quality of life for primates
- Refuge will be allowed to fundraise
- Increase in eco-tourism for the region
- Goal of taking all individual chimps and creating three large groups
- US staff changed the layout of the facility to better organize this endeavor
- Chimps had to be sedated to be moved; this was a long process
- Chimps were allowed "Howdy Introductions" through barriers prior to being placed together
- Not one person or animal was injured during this entire process

This month long field work was very successful and highlights the LA Zoo's primate string to be very knowledgeable in their field.

AGENDA ITEM 6

GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Animal Transactions

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

- Outgoing Catalina rattlesnakes
- Orangutan being paired for breeding
- Received three African painted dogs
- Anatolian shepherds brought in to protect live stock at night
- One giant otter being sent to Colombia for breeding
- Births of desert big horn sheep and a coloubus monkey

B/C. GLAZA/Marketing and Events Update

Kait Hilliard, Vice President of GLAZA gave an update on GLAZA and Events:

- Two gifts received for Zoo Pals program
- Purchased an SUV for field work

EVENTS

- Sesame Street live did not do as well as had hoped in March
- Big Bunny showed an overall increase
- SoCal PBS Kids day was rained out
- Opening of Dinosaur exhibit had good media coverage and attendance (April 15-17)
- City PR did press for Spring Babies
- Zoo finally has one poster up at LAX

Commission President Winnick asked to see the creative for the LAX posters

D. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- Attendance is above projections while revenue continues to fall behind
- P22 (mountain lion) has not been seen on grounds in several weeks; still keeping some animals indoors at night for their protection
- Mr. Lewis toured Senator Gabby Giffords and her husband around the zoo
- Mayor's Budget to be released tomorrow

**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 11:03 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY