MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 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

VISITORS
Rex Link
Judith Powell

EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT
Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF
Denise M. Verret
Denise Tamura

MEDIA
none signed in

CITY ATTORNEY LIAISON
Dov Lesel

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

AGENDA ITEM 2
APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF APRIL 19, 2016
Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of April 19, 2016. Commission Vice-President Silva so moved, Commissioner Mitchell seconded and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 3
GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT
Ms. Judith Powell, Elephant Guardians of Los Angeles representative, asked the Commission to consider closing the elephant exhibit and send Billy to a sanctuary.
AGENDA ITEM 4
PENINSULAR PRONGHORN PROJECT
Jeff Holland, Curator of Mammals, provided an overview of this year’s Peninsular pronghorn project. One of the primary goals of the project this year is to import new fawns into the United States population. There have been some problems with the free-ranging herd with predators and access to water. The fawns are currently being hand-raised in enclosed pens. This three-month process will finish in a couple weeks and fawn importation will begin next month. Five fawns will come to Los Angeles Zoo, five will go to Chapultepec Zoo in Mexico (it is the first time this species will be at that zoo) and two will stay at the project site for management purposes.

AGENDA ITEM 5
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ZOO CURATORS JENNIE BECKER AND JEFF HOLLAND
Commission Vice President Silva provided highlights of Jennie Becker’s career at the Zoo. The Commission thanked Ms. Becker for her service and leadership and wished her good luck in her future endeavors.

Commission President Winnick provided highlights of Jeff Holland’s career at the Zoo. The Commission thanked Mr. Holland for his service and leadership and wished him good luck in his future endeavors.

Denise Verret, Deputy Director, echoed the Commission’s kind words and thanked Ms. Becker and Mr. Holland for their dedicated years of service for the Zoo in building one of the best animal collections in the country.

Mr. Holland and Ms. Becker described how their staff has contributed to their successes. Without the dedicated front line staff working diligently, they would not have been able to accomplish what they have in their careers.

Ms. Schaefer also thanked Ms. Becker and Mr. Holland for their service and noted that it will be difficult to find replacements and the dedication they’ve shown for the species within their care.

AGENDA ITEM 6
GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Animal Transactions
Beth Schaefer, General Curator, discussed the latest animal transactions. Some highlights include:
- Transfer of female greater one-horned rhino from Buffalo Zoo to San Diego Zoo Safari Park
- Will receive female Southern hairy-nosed wombat from Adelaide Zoo to establish breeding pair
- Loan from San Antonio Zoo of male Congo peafowl for pairing with female
- New births/hatchings include black-headed weaver, Colobus, Gray’s monitors, greater flamingo, knobtail gecko, Nubian ibex and markhor

B. GLAZA Update
Connie Morgan, GLAZA President, provided an update:
- Gifts this past month include $20,401 for orangutans, $10,000 for Zoo Pals and $97,500 for the CDC Park
- Anticipate exceeding $2M goal for year
• Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles renewed their sponsorship of the PlayPark for $160,000 to be used for marketing
• Memberships for April exceeded 64,000 households
• Dreamnight was held on May 6. It was a nice event and well attended

Commission President Winnick asked for clarification about the CDC Park.

C. Zoo Director Reports
Denise Verret, Deputy Director, commented on the following:
• April’s attendance was below projections; 3% above year-to-date projections
• April’s revenue was below projections and year-to-date is approximately 5% below projections
• Mayor released the City’s Sustainability pLAN which featured the Zoo’s parking lot and new EV stations
• The City’s proposed 2016/17 budget will be going before City Council this week. The Zoo did fairly well. It was suggested to present the approved budget at next month’s Commission meeting

AGENDA ITEM 7
OLD BUSINESS
AUGUST 16, 2016 COMMISSION MEETING DISCUSSION
Commission President Winnick queried the Commission to determine if there would be a quorum for August 16, 2016 Commission meeting. There will not be a quorum so August’s meeting was cancelled.

AGENDA ITEM 8
ADJOURNMENT
There being no more business to come before, Commission President Winnick motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commission Vice President Silva so moved and Commissioner Johnson seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:47AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY