



# 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

*“Nurturing  
wildlife  
and enriching  
the human  
experience”*

Los Angeles Zoo  
5333 Zoo Drive  
Los Angeles  
California 90027  
323/644-4200  
Fax 323/662-9786  
<http://www.lazoo.org>

Eric Garcetti  
Mayor

David E. Ryu  
Council Member  
4<sup>th</sup> District

Zoo Commissioners

Karen B. Winnick  
President

Bernardo Silva  
Vice President

Yasmine Johnson

Tyler Kelley

Marc Mitchell

Richard Lichtenstein  
ex officio member

John R. Lewis  
Zoo Director

### 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

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### 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.



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**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.

There are approximately 400 animals in captivity in Baja and under 50 in the wild at this time. Project representatives have been working with local ranchers to allow access through fencing so that pronghorn can migrate to water sources.

**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:

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY