



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 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
Kiersten Cluster
Ronna Siegel
Lou Molina
Becca Wilson
Linda Gibbony
Shirley Duffer

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 10:02 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2016

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of June 21, 2016
Commission Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Mitchell seconded
and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 3

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Four women representing Elephant Guardians spoke. Highlights of their comments
as follows:

Kiersten Cluster: Ms. Cluster stated she wanted to add to the comments she made
at the previous meeting. Commission President Winnick would not allow us to be
on the agenda so there is no way to have a dialogue.



Ms. Cluster continued with statements regarding her grave concern about the welfare of elephants at the Zoo. Discussed “Billy’s” care and how the Zoo allows him to stay in over 100 degree heat where he defecates and urinates. Discussion about the ERD and restraints. They have online petitions to send “Billy” to a sanctuary; over 70,000 signatures.

Beth Wilson – Ms. Wilson is appalled to hear that “Billy” has been imprisoned for almost 30 years. His head bobbing is a sign of stress. Release “Billy” to a sanctuary where he can have companionship. “Billy’s” current situation is the equivalent to solitary confinement and it’s very cruel.

Judith Powell – Previous CPRA request to the Zoo for video footage and pictures has been denied as the Zoo stated the request was not applicable. Threatened Zoo with lawsuit in order to obtain documents. Zoo must disclose video and photos of Billy from 2015.

Dr. Tobi Fischel – Stated she is a trauma specialist. She stated she knows the Commissioners are good people so she’s asking them to do something about “Billy”; he is traumatized

Group tried to engage Commission in discussion; Brown Act explained regarding Agenda items.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

No Comments

AGENDA ITEM 4 - PRESENTATION – GORILLA REHABILITATION AND CONSERVATION EDUCATION CENTER (GRACE)

General Curator, Beth Schaefer discussed her time at the Gorilla Rehab center in the Democrate of Congo. Highlights included:

- The main focus of GRACE is to repopulate the Grauer gorillas; there are less than 3,000 Grauer gorillas
- GRACE was built with the help of Disney’s Animal Kingdom
- The facility is growing to a 24 acre preserve
- Fifteen gorillas eat up to 1500 lbs of browse a day
- Gorillas are introduced via “Howdy” technique until they can join the larger group
- Ms. Schaefer assisted by training gorillas and staff at GRACE to do body checks
- GRACE is working on educating the local community on the welfare and benefits of saving local wildlife

AGENDA ITEM 5 – PRESENTATION – 50th ANNIVERSARY PLANNING

Vice President of Marketing and Events for GLAZA, Kait Hilliard, discussed the preliminary plans for the Zoo’s 50th anniversary. Highlights included:

- Build and grow attendance
- Create brand building with conservation messages
- Highlight completed Capital Projects while currently working on new Master Plan
- Possibly have news reporters to shadow keepers for daily news stories

Mrs. Hilliard asked the Commissioners to come up with ideas and submit them to her directly.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – PRESENTATION LOS ANGELES ZOO SCHOOLS POSTER PROJECT

Education Curator Heather Shields discussed the Zoo's schools poster project. This program was designed to give teachers posters and materials they can use in environmental lessons for their classes. This program began in 2010 with money from Boeing. Each year a different lesson/theme/grade level is proposed for the project. So far topics covered by this project have been:

1. CA Condor
2. From Streets to Streams
3. Backyard Zoo
4. Everything has a Home
5. Save the Drop

All feedback from teachers has been extremely positive; the Zoo is considered an educational place for information and for an outdoor classroom experience.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – ELECTION OF COMMISSION OFFICERS

Current Commission Vice President Silva nominated Karen Winnick to continue as Commission President. Commissioners unanimously agreed. Commission President Winnick nominated Bernardo Silva to continue as Commission Vice President. Commissioners unanimously agreed.

AGENDA ITEM 8

GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Animal Transactions

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

- Received a North American porcupine that will be used as an outreach animal
- Galahs are now on display in the aviary

B. GLAZA Update

GLAZA President Connie Morgan gave an update on GLAZA activities:

- Received a \$100,000 renewal for two years of LAIR upkeep
- A new Board Member has taken over the funding Keeper Grants for field work (formerly Sloan Grant)

C. GLAZA/Marketing and Events Update

Kait Hilliard, Vice President of GLAZA gave an overview of events and marketing efforts:

- There will be a "Pokemon Go" event next weekend
- The first of four "Roaring Night" was not so well attended; hopeful other night events including "Brew at the Zoo" will make up for lost attendance
- August 13 & 14 will be "Elephant Awareness Weekend"; Zoo will offer elephant barn tours to the public

D. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- Zoo staff were prepared to help the Wildlife Waystation with evacuations during a fire but evacuations were not necessary
- Mr. Lewis attended the AZA Annual Board of Directors meeting
- Masterplan workshops begin next week

- For the fiscal year we reached attendance of 1.78 visitors; revenue was approximately 4% below projections
- Discussion of various scientific papers released regarding elephants
- Additional discussion about weather and fire season

**AGENDA ITEM 9
OLD BUSINESS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 10
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 Johnson seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 11:34 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY