



## MINUTES

### BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017 – 10:00 AM

Los Angeles Zoo  
Grand Room  
5333 Zoo Drive  
Los Angeles, California 90027

*“Creating  
dynamic  
experiences  
to connect  
people and  
animals”*

Los Angeles Zoo  
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Eric Garcetti  
Mayor

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

Zoo Commissioners

Karen B. Winnick  
President

Bernardo Silva  
Vice President

Tyler Kelley

Marc Mitchell

Richard Lichtenstein  
ex officio member

John R. Lewis  
Zoo Director

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

Tyler Kelley  
Bernardo Silva  
Karen Winnick

#### VISITORS

Rex Link

#### EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

Richard Lichtenstein

#### COMMISSION STAFF

John 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 10:07 AM.

#### AGENDA ITEM 2

##### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2017

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of February 21, 2017. Commission Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Kelley seconded and the motion passed.

#### AGENDA ITEM 3

##### GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None



## **NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

No Comments

### **AGENDA ITEM 4 – RECOGNITION OF COMMISSIONER YASMINE JOHNSON**

President Winnick tabled this as former Commissioner Johnson was unable to attend the meeting.

### **AGENDA ITEM 5 – INTRODUCTION OF DR. LISA NAPLES, CHIEF VETERINARIAN**

Dr. Lisa Naples gave an overview of her education and experience prior to accepting the Chief Vet position at the Zoo. Highlights included:

- Graduate of Tufts University
- Prior to graduating Dr. Naples had a great interest in wildlife rescue and recovery
- Her field work led her to entering medicine as she saw the need for medical assistance with conservation efforts
- Assisted with creating protocols and programs to be used at Zoo and Aquarium facilities as well as in the field
- Dr. Naples worked at a veterinarian at Shedd Aquarium before coming to the Zoo
- Hoping to grow the Animal Health Program at the Zoo with more staffing and a complete laboratory
- Develop and grow an intern program and eventually have recognized Residencies for vets here at the Zoo

## **AGENDA ITEM 6**

### **GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

#### **A. Animal Transactions**

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

- Cape vulture chick hatched; condor staff are caring for this bird
- Chickens received and will be on exhibit with the mini horse
- Incoming sea lion
- Will be receiving six rock hyrax
- Paca was born
- Two sets of pronghorns were born

#### **B. GLAZA Update**

GLAZA President Connie Morgan gave an update on GLAZA activities:

- GLAZA received a \$100K gift from Parsons; designated for GLAZA operations
- Slash will be performing a blues set at the Beastly Ball. This event will be livestreamed giving online viewers an opportunity to donate to the Zoo
- Beastly Ball press event will be held on April 6
- Starting a “Zoo Ambassador” project where celebrities will record short videos discussing global crisis or other conservation projects and of course their love of the Zoo

#### **C. Marketing and Events Updates**

Kait Hilliard, VP of Marketing for GLAZA gave the following overview:

- Two consecutive weekends with character appears; well attended but some operational issues with the size of crowds
- Started the “Sustainable Wine and Dinner Series”; another one will be held each month featuring a different winery and conservation topic
- Honda and Disney have continued their sponsorships

- Conservation messaging via print ads showing the Zoo's conservation achievements through the years
- Will be partnering with LA Libraries on a Summer reading program

**D. Zoo Director Reports**

Zoo Director John Lewis commented on the following:

- Our male hippopotamus was successfully transferred to Dallas Zoo
- Held more Masterplan workshops and a second Community Outreach meeting
- Discussion about park traffic issues
- Attendance is 2% below projections for the year
- Contractor currently renovating the Papiano Play Park
- Prop A lighting project has begun with lighting installation throughout the zoo
- Next week staff will be attending the AZA Mid-Year conference; the Zoo has its accreditation hearing at this meeting

Commission Vice President Silva asked if there was any update on the sign district ordinance; as of now it is still with the Planning Commission. Dov Lesel with check on the status with City Attorney and report back to the Zoo Commission.

**AGENDA ITEM 7  
OLD BUSINESS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 8  
ADJOURNMENT**

There being no more business to come before, President Winnick motioned to adjourn the meeting Vice President Silva so moved the meeting be adjourned and Commissioner Kelley seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 AM.

ATTEST:

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PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY