



MINUTES

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 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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California 90027
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<http://www.lazoo.org>

Eric Garcetti
Mayor

David E. Ryu
Council Member
4th District

Zoo Commissioners

Karen B. Winnick
President

Bernardo Silva
Vice President

Christopher Hopkins

Tyler Kelley

Richard Lichtenstein
ex officio member

John R. Lewis
Zoo Director

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tyler Kelley
Bernardo Silva
Karen Winnick
Christopher Hopkins

VISITORS

Rex Link

EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT

Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF

Denise Verret
Lisa Gerencser

MEDIA

None signed in.

CITY ATTORNEY LIAISON

Laurie Rittenberg

**AGENDA ITEM 1
CALL TO ORDER**

Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MARCH 23, 2017

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of March 23, 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 COMMISSIONERS YASMINE JOHNSON AND MARC MITCHELL

Former Commissioner Johnson was unable to attend.

Commission President Winnick presented former Commissioner Mitchell with a plaque and shared the Commission's appreciation for his work on the Zoo Commission. Deputy Director Verret presented the former commissioner with a proclamation from the Arts, Parks, and River Committee and thanked him for his service on the Zoo Commission. Everyone wished Mr. Mitchell on his future endeavor on the Planning Commission. Mr. Mitchell thanked the Commission and Zoo staff and said he would continue to support the Zoo.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – ANIMAL ACQUISITIONS, TRANSFERS AND TRANSITIONS PRESENTATION

General Curator, Beth Schaefer explained the process of animal acquisitions, transfers and transitions. Highlights of the process included:

- Acquisition is when the Zoo has incoming animals, Transfers are movement of Zoo owned animals between other facilities and Transitions are outgoing animals
- Discussed the Collection Plan process; plan is compiled and completed by General Curators and Curators with input from Vet, Animal Care, and Education staff.
- Explained TAG and SSP (Taxon groups and Species Survival Plan)
- Discussion of forms and procedures necessary to make animal transactions
- Staff hold weekly Animal Management meetings where these transactions are discussed
- Zoo transactions are now global when it was mostly domestic ten years ago
- The various types of actual animal transportation were discussed – Flights, big rigs, and professional haulers.

AGENDA ITEM 6

GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Animal Transactions

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

- Seven incoming slender-tailed meerkats
- Receiving two African crested porcupine
- Incoming female ostriches
- Okapi will be going to Brookfield Zoo
- CA Condor hatched
- Three sets of twin pronghorns were born

B. GLAZA Update

GLAZA President Connie Morgan gave an update on GLAZA activities:

- GLAZA received at \$26,000 for Zoo Pals transportation program
- Received first reimbursement for Prop A lighting project
- Have raised \$2 million so far for the Beastly Ball which is on May 20

C. Zoo Director Reports

Deputy Director Denise Verret commented on the following:

- Attendance for the year is slightly below projections while revenue is up

- Next Masterplan workshops and community meeting will be in June
- Restoration of the play park has been completed
- Prop A Lighting Project is about 60% complete
- The Zoo did receive their Accreditation at the March AZA Mid-Year Conference
- Discussion about Councilmember Koretz motion to send “Billy” the Asian elephant to a sanctuary. Councilmember held a press event in front of the Zoo today at 10AM; the Zoo was not contacted regarding this motion or the press event. The Zoo countered with its own press event regarding our elephant program today at 8:30AM.

Commission President Winnick asked if there were any specific highlights or concerns the AZA has with the Zoo during its Accreditation process. Mrs. Verret stated the concerns were minimal and fixed prior to the Accreditation hearing. The AZA commended the Zoo for its great relationships between Animal Care and Animal Health, the partnership with GLAZA, the CCRZ and the state of the art Elephants of Asia exhibit.

**AGENDA ITEM 7
OLD BUSINESS**

President Winnick asked about the costumed character that stands in the Free Speech Zone in front of the Zoo. A free speech discussion took place where Deputy Director Verret and Attorney Laurie Rittenberg explained the City’s policy to the Commission.

President Winnick wanted to note for the record that Councilmember Koretz did not reach out to Zoo Management or the Zoo Commission before his press event.

**AGENDA ITEM 8
ADJOURNMENT**

There being no more business to come before, President Winnick motioned to adjourn the meeting Commissioner Kelley so moved the meeting be adjourned and Commissioner Hopkins seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY