



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2017 – 10:00 AM

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

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

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Eric Garcetti
Mayor

David E. Ryu
Council Member
4th District

Zoo Commissioners

Karen B. Winnick
President

Bernardo Silva
Vice President

Margot Armbruster

Christopher Hopkins

Tyler Kelley

Richard Lichtenstein
ex officio member

John R. Lewis
Zoo Director

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tyler Kelley
Margot Armbruster
Karen Winnick
Christopher Hopkins
Bernardo Silva

VISITORS

Rex Link

EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT

Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF

John Lewis
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 10:03 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MAY 16, 2017

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of May 16, 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 – SUSTAINABILITY POPULATION MANAGEMENT

Andrea Putnam, PhD, CAZA Population Biologist, discussed the work she does with Zoos regarding population management. Dr. Putnam works out of San Diego Zoo but helps with species management at zoos within CA. Key components of her work are:

- In charge of making transfer and breeding recommendations
- Works directly with Zoo Curators regarding collection plans and breeding
- Collects data that represents Zoo collections and breeding practices then compiles that information into metrics that are useful for Zoos in their future planning
- Used LA Zoo's LAIR opening as example of large increase in the reptile population while other specie levels stayed the same
- Separating species into "Priority" vs. "Exhibit Only". Priority animals are endangered or have an SSP (Species Survival Plan) in place; over 600 species are part of an SSP. Exhibit Only are animals are not endangered and are usually animals which increase the diversity and interest of a zoo's collection

Dr. Putnam stated the LA Zoo is doing a great job with population management and sustainable captive species. Commissioner Kelley asked how LA compares to the other zoos regarding its biodiversity. Dr. Putnam responded that due to the climate and animal care program here in LA, this Zoo has one of the greatest diverse collections of any zoo. Commissioner Kelley asked Director Lewis how plans are made to release animals back into the wild. Director Lewis explained its long lengthy process with many groups involved in the decision. Commission President Winnick asked Dr. Putnam about artificial insemination; Dr. Putnam stated zoos are working on accomplishing this with various species but it's a long learning process.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – THE BROWN ACT

This item was tabled for a future meeting as the Zoo's regular City Attorney liaison was unable to attend meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 6

GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Animal Transactions

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

- Eight song birds which were part of a confiscation are being cared for and will be added to our collection
- Bighorn sheep will be going to another Zoo as a breeding recommendation
- Incoming freckled ducks
- Elegant parrots that were part of a different confiscation will be going on display
- Births include, bighorn sheep, black duiker, pudu and flamingo hatchings
- Zoo is currently working on an "Ambassador" flock of flamingo that will be more interactive with our guests

B. GLAZA Update

GLAZA Vice President Genie Vasels gave an update on GLAZA activities:

- Beastly Ball was held on May 20. Over 800 people attended and the ball raised \$2.89 million, of which \$892,000 is going to the SCAN initiative

- GLAZA has exceeded its restricted fundraising by raising over \$2.3 million
- Former GLAZA Trustee Oranato is overriding costs for three keepers to do field study work
- Receiving a donated laser machine for health center
- Received \$23,000 for school programs

C. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director Lewis commented on the following:

- Sea lions have returned to the front entrance exhibit
- Received two female ostriches to hopefully breed with our male
- Court decision was found in Zoo's favor. Zoo will continue with the best care practices for our elephants. Lawsuit should have been criminal but plaintiff's filed in civil courts; sets precedent for future activists lawsuits
- Attendance and revenue are slightly below projections for the year but expect to make it up by June 30
- Next Master Plan workshops will be this week with the next public meeting taking place in July
- Currently in limbo with regards to the "Billy" motion by Councilmember Koretz; have had several meetings with other council offices regarding our elephant program
- Councilmember Koretz has not visited the elephant exhibit since it opened even though he has been invited several times

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 Commissioner Kelley so moved the meeting be adjourned and Commissioner Armbruster seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:49 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY