



**MINUTES**

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

**TUESDAY, JULY 18 – 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  
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

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 PRESENT**

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 10:01 AM.

**AGENDA ITEM 2**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JUNE 20, 2017**

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of June 20, 2017. Commission Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Kelley seconded and the motion passed.

**AGENDA ITEM 3  
GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

None



#### **AGENDA ITEM 4 - NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

No Comments

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5 – 2017/18 CITY BUDGET**

Director of Administrative Services, Mei Kwan, gave an overview of the adopted budget for fiscal year 2017/18:

- Total adopted budget is \$22,012,376
- Salaries take up 83% of the budget while the remainder is spread among the Zoo's divisions
- The Zoo was given additional positions bringing our full time total up to 233 positions
- For fiscal year 2016/17 the Zoo had 1.78 million visitors
- This is the fourth year the Zoo is not receiving General Funds for operations
- Zoo will be increasing admissions by \$1 but based on comparisons of other southern California attractions and comparable zoos we are still an affordable destination
- Discussion regarding admissions revenue and zoo surplus development fund verses use of general funds

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6 – PRESENTATION – ORNATO GRANT RECIPIENT – TASMANIAN DEVIL MANAGEMENT COURSE IN TROWUNNA WILDLIFE PARK, AUSTRALIA**

Animal Keeper Andrea Delega discussed her time at Tasmania devil workshop in Australia. Highlights of the trip included:

- Devils were becoming endangered as a result of health issues. Devils were being seen with large face tumors. The tumors were cancerous and caused by the devils biting each other while they feed.
- Australian government invested \$10 million to save, protect and study the species.
- Los Angeles Zoo is one of only 30 facilities in the world to house Tasmanian devils.
- Andrea was taught how to hand restrain devils
- Showed a video of devils feeding
- Discussion about devil breeding process
- As of the time of this report 100 devils have been vaccinated and released back into the wild
- Studies have shown that devil's milk provides immunity for young joeys against the threat of the cancerous growths. Looking at the possibility of using this milk as a vaccine for other devils.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Commission Vice President Silva nominated Karen Winnick to continue as Commission President and Commissioner Hopkins seconded. By unanimous vote Mrs. Winnick was reelected as Commission President. Commission President Winnick nominated Bernardo Silva to continue as Commission Vice President and Commissioner Kelley seconded. By unanimous vote Mr. Silva will continue as Commission Vice President.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8 GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

### **A. Animal Transactions**

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

- Incoming wrinkled hornbill
- Two koalas going out
- Births included: big horn sheep, blue throated macaw, Calamian deer and Francois languars
- A yellow-footed rock wallaby was also born and is being raised as an outreach animal

### **B. GLAZA Update**

GLAZA President Connie Morgan gave an update on GLAZA activities:

- Raised over \$4.9 million in fiscal year 2016/17
- Prop A lighting project is complete and the county has repaid for the work
- A donor has offered to donate money to repair the swan waterfall

### **C. MARKETING AND EVENTS UPDATE**

Vice President of Marketing Kait Hilliard, gave an update on summer promotions:

- One Roaring Night was held in June the next two are scheduled for July and Sept.
- Brew at the Zoo will be held on August 4 with 58 breweries confirmed for the event
- World Elephant Days will be August 12-13
- On September 1 the Zoo celebrates Fleet Week
- September 3 is Vulture awareness day
- Discussed social media highlights
- As part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration the Zoo has a photo exhibit in the City Hall pedestrian bridge
- “Zooscape” will be moving from a bi-monthly printed publication to a monthly digital version

### **D. Zoo Director Reports**

Zoo Director Lewis commented on the following:

- Received a female Asian elephant
- Zoo assisted with a large reptile confiscation in Ventura County. Appears person hoarded reptiles and crocodiles in unsafe conditions.
- Female giraffe was born
- Had Masterplan workshops but have not decided on a date for the next public outreach meeting
- Finished the fiscal year with strong attendance and revenue 2% over projections for the year

## **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 Commission Vice President Silva so moved the meeting be adjourned and Commissioner Hopkins seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 11:04 AM.

ATTEST:

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY