



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 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
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
Bernardo Silva

VISITORS

Rex Link

MEMBERS ABSENT

Christopher Hopkins

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 10:01 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JULY 18, 2017

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of July 18, 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 – PRESENTATION OF THE BROWN ACT

City Attorney Dov Lesel gave an overview of the Brown Act which covers open/public meetings of government entities. Mr. Lesel will provide each Commissioner with a copy of the act. Questions on the Brown Act may be asked at a future meeting. The Brown Act can be found at:

http://ag.ca.gov/publications/2003_Intro_BrownAct.pdf

AGENDA ITEM 5 – PRESENTATION – EARTHWATCH/DUTTENHAVER TRIP - STUDYING ELEPHANTS AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN KENYA

Curator of Birds, Mike Maxcy, was one of the mentors on the trip to Kenya. He introduced the students and they gave an overview of their experiences.

- Gabe Lizer discussed the genuine interest and lessons learned about Kenyan culture during their two week stay
- Mikael Ortega commented on the soil conditions and the importance of farmers to find ways to work with wildlife to live cooperatively and sustainably
- Ryan Donnelly described the struggle of the farmers who may resort to poaching or cutting/burning trees for coal just to survive. The animals they kill are for survival not commercial purposes
- Ryan Iwata explained the students helped by erecting fencing/barriers around farms to assist with keeping wildlife out
- Nita McHugh noted that there was daily research done on various species regarding bio-diversity and destruction of natural habitats
- Jake Eigenbrodt discussed agriculture and farming; farmers were taught about pesticide free care as well as information on vertical landscaping
- Melissa Ruiz discussed the culture of the people comparing it to her own mother's impoverished upbringing in El Salvador. Africa and the people there left a huge impact on her.

The students thanked the Zoo, GLAZA and Mrs. Duttonhaver for their experiences. Commission President Winnick asked each of the students if this trip impacted what they would like pursue school and career wise. Every one of the students hopes to go to college and be involved with animals and/or the environment in one way or another.

AGENDA ITEM 6

GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Animal Transactions

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

- Outgoing animals include a grey kangaroo and a mangrove viper
- Births include rattlesnake, duiker, and giraffe
- Reptile staff assisted with another confiscation
- Zoo's oldest eagle has passed away from old age

B. GLAZA Update

GLAZA President Connie Morgan gave an update on GLAZA activities:

- Thanked the kids and announced this is the 10th year of Linda Duttenhaver has provided this Earthwatch trip for the students and chaperons
- Received \$5,000 for Peninsular pronghorns
- Received a \$15,000 government grant for CA condors
- New annual six figure sponsor – Welk Resorts

C. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director Lewis commented on the following:

- New sea lion is on display at Sea Life Cliffs
- Discussion about meetings that took place during the AZA Board of Director's Conference regarding new legislation and various organizations involved with lobbying for proper legislation
- This past weekend the Zoo celebrated Elephant Awareness again where keepers and educators are on hand to speak with the public. Public was also allowed to tour the elephant barn
- July attendance lower than predicted due to weather but revenue is on target

AGENDA ITEM 7

OLD BUSINESS

President Winnick asked Zoo Director Lewis how "Shaunzi" the new elephant was adapting. Mr. Lewis reported that she is doing well and staff has started elephant introductions.

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 Armbruster seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 11:26 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY