



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 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
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
4th District

Zoo Commissioners

Karen B. Winnick
President

Bernardo Silva
Vice President

Margot Armbruster

Christopher Hopkins

Richard Lichtenstein
ex officio member

John R. Lewis
Zoo Director

MEMBERS PRESENT

Christopher Hopkins
Margot Armbruster
Karen Winnick
Bernardo Silva

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 10:03 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2017

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of August 15, 2017. Commission Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Armbruster seconded and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 3

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None



NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

No Comments

AGENDA ITEM 4 – DISCUSSION OF ANTI-POACHING EFFORTS

Zoo Director John Lewis commented that a delegation from different African countries were at the Zoo today to discuss anti-poaching efforts. This group is touring zoos across the United States as well as meeting with USFWS.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – VIPER CONSERVATION IN ARMENIA

Curator of Reptiles, Ian Recchio, spent two weeks in Armenia working with field staff on viper conservation. Conservation efforts have led to four protected areas in Armenia. Five years ago the LA Zoo received its first pair of Armenia vipers and was successful in breeding the species. Mr. Recchio discussed the various wildlife he saw while in Armenia, including the catching, marking and releasing blunt-nose vipers. Mr. Recchio also shared the conservation facility being built by funds donated by the LA Zoo as well as other organizations.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – Master Plan

Zoo Director John Lewis discussed the overall LA Zoo Master Plan. There have been multiple internal planning meetings and two public outreach meetings thus far. There will be another public meeting to unveil the Master Plan. Based on the Zoo's four pillars from its Strategic Plan came the areas for the Master Plan – Campus, Conservation, Community, and Human Capital. Mr. Lewis' presentation included an overview of the entire zoo and focusing on the expansion areas of the Zoo. Discussion among Commission about funding, LEED, children's zoo, and anticipated increased attendance. All information about the Zoo's Master Plan can be found here <http://www.lazoomasterplan.com>

AGENDA ITEM 7

GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Animal Transactions

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

- Will be receiving a breeding pair of spectacle owls
- Moving some bird species to the nursery area to improve those exhibits
- One outgoing female gorilla; one incoming female to hopefully be paired with "Kelly" our large male silver back
- Birth of two mandrills

B. GLAZA Update

GLAZA President Connie Morgan gave an update on GLAZA activities:

- Received two corporate donations of \$5,000 each
- Received \$15,000 from USFWS for CA Condors

C. GLAZA Events and Marketing update

Kait Hilliard, VP of Marketing and Events for GLAZA gave the following recap:

- The Los Angeles Zoo sign was lit up in the Olympic colors, along with other LA attractions, to celebrate Los Angeles winning the bid for the 2028 Olympic games
- Did promotional PR with Southwest Airlines and Palm Beach Zoo regarding the journey of “Katherine” the koala from LA to Palm Beach
- Current campaign of “25% off week day admission”
- National Geographic Photo Ark has been installed and will be on display at the LA Zoo until February 2018.
- Celebrated World Elephant Day, International Vulture Awareness, and Fleet Week
- All three Roaring Nights had a total of 6,000 attendees

D. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director Lewis commented on the following:

- Reminded Commissioners he attended the AZA Annual Conference in Indianapolis last week; Commission Armbruster also attended
- The hurricanes in Texas and Florida affected the employees more than the facilities. AZA.org has set up a fund if anyone would like to donate to help the employees that have lost everything
- Attendance and revenue are both behind projections for the month
- Flamingo exhibit has been refurbished

**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 11:23 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY