



MINUTES

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 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
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California 90027
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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

Nicole Chase

Christopher Hopkins

Richard Lichtenstein
ex officio member

John R. Lewis
Zoo Director

MEMBERS PRESENT

Nicole Chase
Christopher Hopkins
Karen Winnick
Bernardo Silva

VISITORS

Rex Link

MEMBERS ABSENT

Margot Armbruster

EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT

Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF

John Lewis
Lisa Gerencser

MEDIA

None signed in.

ZOO GENERAL COUNSEL

Dov Lesel

**AGENDA ITEM 1
CALL TO ORDER**

Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21, 2017

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes November 21, 2017. Commission Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Hopkins seconded and the motion passed.

**AGENDA ITEM 3
GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

None



NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

No Comments

AGENDA ITEM 4 – RECOGNITION OF ZOO COMMISSIONER TYLER KELLEY

Commission President Winnick presented former Commission Kelley with a plaque and thanked him for his work on the Commission. President Winnick noted that Mr. Kelley is now on the GLAZA Board of Trustees. Vice President Silva stated it was shame Mr. Kelley had moved out of the City of Los Angeles but was happy he would still part of the Zoo family. Zoo Director John Lewis presented Mr. Kelley with a commendation from the Arts, Parks, River and Aging Council Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – PRESENTATION: ORNATO GRANT RECIPIENT – CONSERVING NAMIBIA'S DESERT-DWELLING ANGOLAN GIRAFFE

Animal Keeper Mike Bona was this year's recipient of the Ornato Grant. Mr. Bona went to Namibia to assist with conservation efforts for giraffes while working with the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF). The main field efforts were to count giraffes, determine their grazing range, and where exactly the giraffes are located. All species of giraffe are divided into four categories: Northern, Southern, Reticulated, and Masai. Giraffes are found in 21 countries and GCF is currently working with 17 of them on the conservation efforts. Discussion about climate, environmental conditions, and ways the giraffe are tracked.

AGENDA ITEM 6

GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Animal Transactions

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

- Cloud rats will be moving to the Czech Republic
- Incoming vampire crabs will be placed in LAIR
- Okapi calf was born
- Gerenuk calfs born

Discussion regarding deaths of wallabies and zebra. The zebra was aborted due to complications and the wallaby joeys were humanly euthanized.

B. GLAZA Update

GLAZA President Connie Morgan gave an update on GLAZA activities:

- Received \$7,000 for Animal Care
- Received \$23,000 for condors
- Received \$25,000 for our bird programs
- Zoo Lights has been continuing to do well with over 188,000 tickets sold to date

C. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director Lewis commented on the following:

- Attendance and revenue are both ahead for the month of November
- Discussed the various Southern CA wildfires and the Zoo's ability to offer assistance to the Wildlife Waystation and Santa Barbara Zoo

- Elephant protestors have returned to voice their concerns for “Billy” the Zoo’s only male Asian elephant.

Discussion about legal rights of activists providing misinformation to the public and how the Zoo counters this misinformation with having informed staff and ensuring our visitors is knowledgeable about the Zoo’s mission and purpose.

**AGENDA ITEM 8
OLD BUSINESS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 9
ADJOURNMENT**

There being no more business to come before, President Winnick motioned to adjourn the meeting Commissioner Hopkins so moved the meeting be adjourned and Commissioner Chase seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:43 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY