MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2018 – 10:00 AM

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

MEMBERS PRESENT
Nicole Chase
Karen Winnick
Margot Armbruster
Christopher Hopkins

MEMBERS ABSENT
Bernardo Silva

EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT
Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF
John Lewis
Lisa Gerencser

ZOO GENERAL COUNSEL
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 MARCH 20, 2018
Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes March 20, 2018. Commissioner Hopkins so moved, Commissioner Armbruster seconded and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 3
GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT
None

“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
Nicole Chase
Christopher Hopkins
Richard Lichtenstein
ex officio member

John R. Lewis
Zoo Director

Accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums
Accredited by the American Association of Museums
Member of the California Association of Zoos and Aquariums
AGENDA ITEM 4 – ZOO BEHAVIORAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM
Director of Research, Dr. Cathleen Cox, gave an overview of the Zoo’s Behavioral Enrichment Program (BE). The purpose of the program is to enhance the well-being of animals in the zoo by simulating the animals’ natural behaviors. Highlights of the program include
- “Hide” food in piñatas to stimulate natural predator behavior
- Create perching and deadfall for habitats
- Complete overhaul of orangutan habitat; creating a multi-level exhibit
- Staff conduct animal/behavior observations and report findings
- Continue to observe our elephants; behaviors have improved since the new exhibit was finished.

The BE staff are integral part of the Animal Care program at the Los Angeles Zoo.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – ZOO LIGHTS SUMMARY
GLAZA President, Connie Morgan gave a rundown of the Zoo Lights summary.
- Revenue has grown 57% over the past four years.
- Revenue for 17/18 Zoo Lights was $2.4 million
- Attendance has grown from 170,000 to 260,000
- This year there was advertising directed at various ethnic groups and millennials
- Concessions revenue has also increased during the four years of this event

Ex-Officio Member Mr. Lichtenstein asked about competing events at other Southern California attractions. Discussions about various events. Ms. Morgan believes each event has its own uniqueness for shared attendees. GLAZA had begun planning for this year Zoo Lights.

AGENDA ITEM 6
GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS
A. Animal Transactions
Zoo General Curator, Beth Schaefer, discussed the latest animal transactions. Some highlights include:
- Koala going to Santa Barbara Zoo
- Receiving a black collared starling
- Receiving a breeding pair of golden breasted starlings
- Two takin calves were born

B. GLAZA Update
GLAZA President Connie Morgan gave an update on GLAZA activities:
- Received $26,000 for Zoo Pals Program
- Received $5,000 for LAIR
- Staff is prepping for the Beastly Ball which will be held on May 19th this year

C. Zoo Director Reports
Zoo Director Lewis commented on the following:
- Mountain yellow-legged frogs have produced over 2000 eggs; they will be released back to the wild once they’ve hatched
- Attendance was down for March but the Zoo is still above yearly projections on revenue and attendance
• Mayor’s Budget will be released on 4/20/18
• After 11 years the elephant lawsuit has finally been dismissed
• BOE is reviewing the Vision Plan and gathering responses for the EIR

Ex-Officio Member Lichtenstein asked how long the EIR process will be. Deputy Director Denise Verret explained BOE will manage the process. Responses are due to BOE by 4/28 and we anticipate a Notice to Proceed sometime in May for Phases 1-3.

Commission President Winnick asked Mr. Lewis if he had thought about reaching out to the new owner of the Los Angeles Times to discuss a featured conservation/zoo column; the frog reintroduction would be a great story.

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 Hopkins so moved the meeting be adjourned and Commissioner Chase seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 AM.

ATTEST:

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PRESIDENT      SECRETARY