



**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

*“Creating  
dynamic  
experiences  
to connect  
people and  
animals”*

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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

Nicole Chase

Christopher Hopkins

Richard Lichtenstein  
ex officio member

John R. Lewis  
Zoo Director

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Nicole Chase  
Karen Winnick  
Margot Armbruster  
Christopher Hopkins

**VISITORS**

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Bernardo Silva

**EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT**

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 10:03 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



## **NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

No Comments

### **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 organutan 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 so cal 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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

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SECRETARY