



# MINUTES

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

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 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  
Bernardo Silva  
Christopher Hopkins

### VISITORS

### 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 10:03 AM.

### AGENDA ITEM 2

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF APRIL 17, 2018

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes April 17, 2018. Commissioner Hopkins so moved, Commissioner Chase seconded and the motion passed.

### AGENDA ITEM 3 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None



## **NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

No Comments

### **AGENDA ITEM 4 – MOUNTAIN YELLOW LEGGED FROG PROGRAM**

Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians, Ian Recchio, discussed the Mountain Yellow Legged Frog Program (MYLF). The LA Zoo has been involved with this critically endangered species since 2011. These frogs are native to Southern California; San Jacinto mountains and the San Gabriel Mountains. Invasive species, natural disasters, and loss of habitat have led to these frogs being critically endangered. Highlights of the LA Zoo's program:

- In 2011 worked with San Jacinto group of frogs and released 160 back into the wild
- The Station Fire directly affected the San Gabriel mountain group of frogs
- LA Zoo received grant funds to expand their "Frog Room"
- In 2014 tadpoles were taken from the San Gabriel mountains and given to the LA Zoo to raise; it takes two years for MYLF to develop from tadpole to frog
- To date over 4,500 eggs have been laid
- As of this summer 1,000 have hatched and will be released back into the San Gabriel mountains

Vice President Silva asked how many needed to be released back into the wild before they can be removed from the critically endangered list. Mr. Recchio explained there isn't a simple answer for that; it has to do with sustaining three generations of frogs.

### **AGENDA ITEM 5 – CONTROLLER'S AUDIT ZOO/GLAZA**

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

### **AGENDA ITEM 6**

#### **GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

##### **A. Animal Transactions**

Zoo General Curator, Beth Schaefer, discussed the latest animal transactions as well as the news piece that was on *60 Minutes* related to how zoos manage their populations. Animal transaction highlights include:

- Sending male bongo to Minnesota
- Red flanked duiker outgoing as per breeding recommendation
- Younger male jaguar being sent to Oakland for breeding
- Ambassador flamingo flock are now on exhibit
- Two giant otters are going to Rhode Island
- Blue breasted king fisher has hatched

##### **B. GLAZA Update**

Kait Hilliard gave an update on GLAZA activities:

- Received \$20,000 for alligators
- Received \$30,000 for elephant feeders
- Received \$5,000 for general education purposes
- Staff is prepping for the Beastly Ball which will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup> this year

##### **C. Marketing and Events Update**

Kait Hilliard discussed marketing and events updates. Noting:

- "Big Bunny" was successful again this year
- Sustainable wine series are doing well; 2 events left for this year
- Had a booth at "March for Science"

- “Wild for the Planet” was successful; don’t have final numbers
- Partnering with AZA on PSAs (Public Service Announcements) regarding animals and the importance of zoos and aquariums for the future of all animals
- New sponsor – New York Life – on grounds providing child identification cards

**D. Zoo Director Reports**

Zoo Director Lewis commented on the following:

- Discussed the *60 Minute* segment previously mentioned
- Elephant introductions are going well among our female elephants
- Attendance is 7% above projections and revenue is 11% above projections
- Mayor’s budget has been released and the Zoo is pleased with its budget
- Lighting project continues to improve lighting for night time events

**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 Vice President Silva seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 AM.

ATTEST:

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY