



MINUTES

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 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
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

Margot Armbruster
Nicole Chase
Karen Winnick
Christopher Hopkins

VISITORS

Rex Link
Alexandre de Bonrepos

MEMBERS ABSENT

Bernardo Silva

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 MAY 15, 2018

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes May 15, 2018. Commissioner Hopkins so moved, Commissioner Armbruster seconded and the motion passed.



**AGENDA ITEM
GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Catherine Doyle: Ms. Doyle who works for PAWS (sanctuary) expressed her dismay over the Zoo's gate handout regarding elephants. According to Ms. Doyle the handout casts a negative light on all sanctuaries and has false information regarding the resources of these sanctuaries. Ms. Doyle asked that the Zoo stop handing out this false information.

Alexander de Benrepos: Mr. de Benrepos complimented the Zoo on its care of animals but discussed his concern about limited educational messaging throughout the zoo. Stating this is a missed opportunity to teach about the environment and importance of zoos.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

No Comments

AGENDA ITEM 4 – CITY BUDGET FY 2018/19

Deputy Director Denise Verret gave an overview of the City's adopted budget as it relates to the Zoo Department. Highlights included:

- Operating budget is \$22.8 million (\$34.4 million including the General Fund portion for salaries and benefits). Zoo's operating budget is based on Zoo revenue.
- No fee increase in the next fiscal year.
- Zoo received additional Animal Keeper positions as well as additional resources to increase Education programs.
- Will be receiving an Emergency Management Coordinator position.
- Received funds for the Bird Show and upgrades to the Zoopendous Center.
- Installing a lactation station as well as a new family restroom.
- Adding additional visitor engagement activities including: Flamingo Mingle, VIP Tour, and regular Tour.

Discussion regarding what the Zoo Department requested from the City versus what the Zoo got. Overall the Zoo is happy with this budget; received 85% of positions asked for. Discussed cost for new visitor experiences; \$25 for flamingos, \$75 for Tour, and \$125 for VIP Tour. The estimated revenues will be: \$10,000 from flamingos, \$78,000 from Tours and \$10,000 from VIP Tour.

**AGENDA ITEM 5
GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

A. Animal Transactions

Zoo General Curator, Beth Schaefer, discussed the latest animal transactions. Animal transaction highlights include:

- Incoming female golden lion tamarin
- Bali mynah male incoming for breeding
- Incoming female harpy eagle
- Births include: giraffe, bighorn sheep, rough scaled python, and a markhor

B. GLAZA Update

GLAZA Vice President, Genie Vasels, gave an update that included:

- Beastly Ball raised \$1.52 million with over 750 attendees
- Received \$50,000 for student volunteer program
- Received \$10,000 for LAIR

- Received \$99,000 for Muriel's Ranch
- Received \$15,000 for Education
- 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 19th this year

C. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director Lewis commented on the following:

- Zoo's updated animal count is 1400 animals representing 270 species, 58 of which are endangered
- Female elephant "Shaunzi" continues with her introductions to the other elephants
- Year-to-date we are ahead for both admissions and revenue
- Business and Marketing Plan has been approved by APER committee; will go to Council and then the Department will begin working on a five year plan
- CAO/CLA completed report for APER committee relative to Councilperson Koretz motion to move "Billy" to a sanctuary; item will return to committee in August after additional information is needed from the CAO/CLA.

AGENDA ITEM 6

OLD BUSINESS

None

AGENDA ITEM 7

ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business to come before, President Winnick motioned to adjourn the meeting Commissioner Chase so moved the meeting be adjourned and Commissioner Hopkins seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:41 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY