



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 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

Bernardo Silva
Nicole Chase
Karen Winnick
Christopher Hopkins

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 10:07 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JULY 17, 2018

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



**AGENDA ITEM
GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comments

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

No Comments

AGENDA ITEM 4 – PRESENTATION – Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog Release

Zoo Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians, Ian Recchio, shared a video of the mountain yellow-legged frog release (mylf). The Los Angeles Zoo staff was successful in hatching over 2,000 tadpoles and to date over 1,100 have been released back into the wild. These frogs come from the local San Gabriel Mountains and are actually the “southern” mylf. The populations of these frogs had been dwindling from fires and droughts in the region. Multiple agencies were involved in this successful release, but it’s the dedication of the Los Angeles Zoo staff that lead to such a great conservation achievement.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – PRESENTATION – Duttenhaver Trip: Monkeys of Costa Rica

Every year, donor Linda Duttenhaver, provides for the Zoo to participate in an Earthwatch Trip for field studies throughout the world. This year the participants traveled to Costa Rica. The trip consisted of nine high school students and three adult chaperones from the Zoo.

Five of the nine students were present to discuss their experiences after showing a video of their adventures. Some highlights from the students included:

Max – while on walk spotted coati on a trail; didn’t even have to time take a picture because I was soaking it all in. It was the trip of a lifetime

Nora – Took a side trip and saw monkeys in the trees; the entire trip they hadn’t seen monkeys which is what the field study was supposed to be about. Amazing trip.

Olivi – Had belongings including passport stolen on the first day of the trip. This trip taught her about being independent and resilient.

Helena – Loved going on a hike to waterfalls and so much natural beauty.

Tiger – Learning about history and culture as it relates to the importance of field research.

All students were very thankful for this opportunity and thanked the staff and Ms. Duttenhaver.

**AGENDA ITEM 6
GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

A. Animal Transactions

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

- Outgoing two male chimpanzees
- Received an American badger who will be an Ambassador animal
- Receiving two Chinese giant salamanders
- Births include: chevrotain and pudu

Ms. Schaefer also discussed going to Baja to check in on the pronghorn program; program is running well and they have a new Visitor Center.

B. GLAZA Update

GLAZA President, Connie Morgan, gave an update that included:

- Received a corporate gift of \$10,000 for Zoo Pals Program
- Received a corporate gift of \$20,000 for the renovation of the Zoo Library

- Donor Dominic Oranato has provided funding for three grant programs; these programs allow keepers to study and share their knowledge on specific species.
- GLAZA will be hosting another Salon in the South Bay at the beginning of September
- Over 5,800 attendees for the first three of four “Roaring Nights”
- “Brew at the Zoo” sold out; 4,000 tickets

C. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director Lewis commented on the following:

- Attendance and revenue were both down for the month of July; mainly weather related
- Nine weeks of Zoo Camp were 90-100% filled
- Social media hippo incident is being investigated by LAPD; zoo has added additional “No Trespassing” signs
- Discussion of about AZA Board of Directors meeting and the upcoming AZA annual conference
- Working on concessions; GLAZA has been given an extension so they have time to complete an RFP

AGENDA ITEM 6

OLD BUSINESS

Vice President Silva asked Director Lewis if there was any movement on the sign district from the Planning Commission. Director Lewis and Attorney Lesel noted there has been no movement on securing sign districts throughout the City.

AGENDA ITEM 7

ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business to come before, President Winnick motioned to adjourn the meeting Vice President Silva so moved the meeting be adjourned and Commissioner Chase seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY