



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2018 – 10:00 AM

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

“Creating dynamic experiences to connect people and animals”

Los Angeles Zoo
5333 Zoo Drive
Los Angeles
California 90027
323/644-4200
Fax 323/662-9786
<http://www.lazoo.org>

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
Margot Armbruster

VISITORS

None signed in.

EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF

Denise Verret
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 AUGUST 21, 2018

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes August 21, 2018. Commission Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Hopkins seconded and the motion passed.



**AGENDA ITEM
GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comments

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

No Comments

AGENDA ITEM 4 – PRESENTATION – SSA Plastic Reduction Program

Brent Heinisch, General Manager for System Services Associates (SSA), discussed new packaging and plastic reduction in our gift shops. Mr. Heinisch showed various products including toys that have less packaging and clothing made from recycled bottles. The stores carry reusable water bottles and straws as well to continue the conservation messaging. To date, SSA has eliminated over 13,000 pounds of plastic. SSA is also using *Green Toys* products which are made from recyclable goods.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – PRESENTATION – Overview of AZA Saving Animals from Extinction (SAFE) Program

This presentation was tabled for a future meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 6
GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

A. Animal Transactions

Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians, Ian Recchio, discussed the latest animal transactions. Animal transaction highlights include:

- Incoming Kunekune pigs as outreach animals
- Female Masai giraffe being sent to San Diego
- Births include: red-flanked duiker, cape porcupine, and gerenuks
- The fourth release of mountain yellow-legged frogs has been approved.

B. GLAZA Update

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

- Received a private foundation gift of \$50,000 for the Angela Collier Gardens
- Received \$25,000 from a donor for Veterinarian field work
- Beastly Ball will be held on May 18, 2019

C. Marketing and Events Update

Kait Hilliard gave an update on marketing and events.

- Elephant awareness event had over 11,000 visitors
- Vulture awareness day had over 8,000 visitors
- Summer event series “Roaring Nights” has ended; combined events had over 9,000 attendees
- July and August attendance was very low due to heat (weather conditions)
- “Brew at the Zoo” had over 3,500 attendees
- Showed a video clip of YouTube influencer, James Charles, who did a spot at the Zoo where animals picked his makeup. Very popular video that is reaching a totally new audience
- This Sunday, “Day of Peace” with lecture from Dr. Jane Goodall
- “Boo at the Zoo” will be held during the entire month of October
- “Zoo Lights” begins in November

D. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Deputy Director, Denise Verret, commented on the following:

- Attendance and revenue continue to be below projections for the month and year
- Introduced new Curator of Mammals and Zoo Nutritionist
- Currently working on modifications to the lion exhibit
- The Show *Treehouse Masters* is filming on grounds today and tomorrow; will notify when episode airs
- Next week most senior level staff will be attending the AZA Annual Conference in Seattle
- The Environmental Review for the Zoo's Vision Plan will begin next month; process should last about 18 months
- Zoo is providing animals and activities for the Lakers' Family Picnic (Private event for Laker players, staff and their families)

**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 Hopkins so moved the meeting be adjourned and Commissioner Chase seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:39 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY