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

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 Nutritonist
- 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:

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PRESIDENT                                  SECRETARY