



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Margot Armbruster

EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF

Denise Verret
Lisa Gerencser

ZOO GENERAL COUNSEL

Dov Lesel

AGENDA ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER

Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF OCTOBER 16, 2018

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes October 16, 2018.
Commissioner Hopkins so moved, Vice President Silva seconded and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 3 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comments

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

No Comments

VISITORS

None signed in.

MEDIA

None signed in.



AGENDA ITEM 4 – PRESENTATION – Overview of AZA Saving Animals from Extinction (SAFE)

General Curator, Beth Schaefer, gave an overview of AZA's SAFE program. This program was started by AZA in 2015 for the purpose of actual measureable zoo's conservation efforts; ways to inform the public that zoos do matter. Program began with 10 species and through the participation of various zoos' there are now 19 species identified for this program. The hope is to grow the species with more zoos participating in the program; goal to have 30 species by 2023 and 50 species by 2028. LA Zoo is proud to be one of the founding members of the SAFE program.

AGENDA ITEM 5 GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Animal Transactions

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

- Outgoing two gerenuk
- Receiving a breeding pair of black stilts
- Outgoing redheaded poisonous frog
- Reindeer are now on exhibit

B. GLAZA Update

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

- Received \$2.7 million for cape vultures
- Received \$90,000 for endoscopic equipment
- Received \$50,000 for Collier Gardens
- Trumpeter swans have been named
- After 16 years with GLAZA, Connie will be retiring in March of 2019

Mr. Lichtenstein asked about where GLAZA is with the RFP for Concessions. Ms. Morgan explained that it has been approved by City Council and will be released soon. Hope to complete the RFP process by spring 2019.

C. Marketing and Events Update

Emily Marrin, Communications Manager for GLAZA, gave an overview of Zoo Lights

- This year GLAZA has added dynamic pricing based on popular days
- The footprint (route) of the event has been extended
- New water laser show
- Opening night was a success with media and social media influencers
- Advertising on social media, television, radio and print ads
- Ticket sales and revenue are above where they were last year at this time

D. Zoo Director Reports

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

- Showed images of the improved lion exhibit
- Attendance is 10% below for the year and revenue is 9% below projections
- On November 9 there was a brush fire outside the perimeter of the Zoo. LAFD set up their command post in the Zoo parking lot. Some animals were relocated to different areas of the Zoo and the Zoo did not open to the public out extreme caution. Zoo and LAFD staff did an amazing job. Zoo is contemplating an LAFD appreciation event.

- On November 6, City Council approved CM Koretz motion to have an independent study done of “Billy’s” (Asian male elephant) health. The CLA and CAO will be leading this and once the assessment is complete they will report back to Council on their findings.
- Zoo staff from Animal Care and Education participated in a career day; with added resources, zoo should be able to conduct more outreach programs. President Winnick asked if the Commission could see the presentation at a future meeting.

Commissioner Chase asked where we are on selecting the Chief Veterinarian. Mrs. Verret explained they are still conducting interviews.

Vice President Silva noted a new Water Bond and asked if the Zoo will look into the possibility of completing the entire parking lot as it did with Prop O water funds.

Vice President Silva asked about the Vision Plan process. Mrs. Verret noted that we have begun the EIR and are working with BOE to complete. The Vision Plan will be sent to the Mayor and Council before the EIR is completed.

Commissioner Chase noted she’d like to help if the Zoo does have an LAFD appreciation event.

**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 Vice President Silva so moved the meeting be adjourned and Commissioner Chase seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY