



MINUTES

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 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
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California 90027
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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
Margot Armbruster

VISITORS

Rex Link

EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT

Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF

Denise Verret
Lisa Gerencser

MEDIA

None signed in.

ZOO GENERAL COUNSEL

Laurie Rittenberg

**AGENDA ITEM 1
CALL TO ORDER**

Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 2018

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes November 20, 2018. Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Armbruster seconded and the motion passed.

**AGENDA ITEM 3
GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comments

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

No Comments



AGENDA ITEM 4 – PRESENTATION – Market Research – National and Local Survey Results

Kait Hilliard, Vice President of GLAZA discussed the findings of the Zoo's Market Research surveys. GLAZA hired a third party to take the AZA's national survey and create a local survey for Los Angeles County residents. Los Angeles County residents view zoos more favorably than the national average. Discussion about the questions asked and the various responses from the survey. Not all survey participants had visited the Zoo and it seems responses from those who had been to the LA Zoo were more positive overall. Continued discussion about marketing and public relations efforts to get the brand out there.

AGENDA ITEM 5 - PRESENTATION - Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) Conservation Partnership

Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians, Ian Recchio, gave an overview of the Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA). In 2012 the LA Zoo began providing conservation funding to the TSA. TSA main headquarters are in South Carolina but have built conservation centers all over the world. Most turtle and tortoise species are critically endangered and the need to save populations has become a more prioritized effort over the past few years. Major factors to the disappearance of species are the illegal pet and food trade. TSA works with various governments on providing rehab for confiscated animals; ultimate goal is to release as many as possible back into the wild.

Commission President Winnick asked if TSA works with the Turtle Conservatory in Ojai. Mr. Recchio commented that all these groups work together for the betterment of the species. Mrs. Winnick suggested to the other Commissioners that they visit the facility in Ojai if they'd like to know more about this conservation effort.

AGENDA ITEM 6

GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Animal Transactions

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

- Incoming speckled mouse birds
- Big horn sheep trade with San Diego for breeding purposes
- Female fennec fox sent to St. Louis for breeding
- New white-tailed jay birds will be placed in the exhibit with oropendolas
- Incoming pancake tortoises for Ambassador Animal Program

Commission asked about the death of a female kangaroo. Dr. Cindy Stadler commented they do not have the full necropsy report but the kangaroo did have a parasitic condition. No other kangaroos have been affected.

B. GLAZA Update

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

- Received \$25,000 for Avian projects
- Received \$1,500 to complete camera project for condor program
- Received \$25,000 for Mike Dee Library

C. Zoo Director Reports

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

- In this month's issue of *Connect* magazine there is an article about the zoo's work with jaguar conservation

- Attendance and revenue continue to be behind projections but hopeful Zoo Lights will make of some of the gap
- Zoo had hired an Emergency Management Coordinator to assist with emergency and safety needs; first time Zoo has had this position on staff
- Have resubmitted request for Chief Veterinarian exemption; waiting for response

Commission President Winnick asked Kait Hilliard about capacity for Zoo Lights. Mrs. Winnick was contacted by a person who had attended and complained the event was too overcrowded. Kait noted there are capacity limits and two different timed entries for every night. GLAZA is currently conducting a survey of Zoo Lights visitors regarding their experience at the 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 Commissioner Chase so moved the meeting be adjourned and Vice President Silva seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY