



MINUTES

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2019 – 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

Denise M. Verret
Interim Zoo Director

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bernardo Silva
Nicole Chase
Karen Winnick
Christopher Hopkins
Margot Armbruster

VISITORS

None signed in.

EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT

Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF

Denise Verret
Lisa Gerencser

MEDIA

None signed in.

ZOO GENERAL COUNSEL

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**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 DECEMBER 18, 2018

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes December 18, 2018. Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Chase seconded and the motion passed.

**AGENDA ITEM 3
GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comments

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

No Comments



AGENDA ITEM 4 – PRESENTATION – Zoo Vision Plan Environmental Impact Report Process (EIR)

Amanda Amaral, Project Manager for Bureau of Engineering (BOE), discussed the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process. The process includes the following:

- Adhere to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines for entire process
- Purpose of EIR is to inform decision makers and the public on the impacts of the process
- BOE has hired Wood Environmental as the lead consultant for this process
- A Notice of Preparation (NOP) will be sent to project stakeholders
- BOE with Wood Environmental will be hosting two public meetings in February 2019 for stakeholders and residents to learn about the process and provide input
- BOE will draft the EIR and host an additional two public meetings at the end of 2019
- BOE has asked if the Zoo Commission will provide a letter of support for the project to the Mayor's office in Spring of 2019
- The entire process is anticipated to be completed by Spring 2020

AGENDA ITEM 5 - PRESENTATION – Zoo Nutrition Program

Zoo Nutritionist, Emily Schwartz, discussed the diet/nutrition planning for the entire Zoo collection. The LA Zoo is now one of few AZA Zoos to have a dedicated Nutritionist; there are 18 total throughout AZA institutions. Ms. Schwartz is in charge of Commissary and Budget management as well as evaluating all current diets of our collection. The current budget for the Commissary is \$1 million with almost half of that going for the purchase of produce. In the future Ms. Schwartz hopes to implement seasonal diets to save on food costs and add additional staff to take some of the burden off Animal Care staff.

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:

- South American bushmasters have hatched and are being sent out to a Croatian zoo
- Armenian vipers hatched
- Received a male cassowary as a breeding recommendation to be paired with our female
- Sending out giant horned lizards to Bronx and Nashville
- Blue throated macaw had one hatchling
- A male Pudu was born

B. GLAZA Update

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

- Received all funds necessary to complete the Michael Dee Library
- Received \$15,000 and \$1,500 for ZooPals
- Received \$10,000 for elephants
- Received \$5,000 for LAIR

C. Events and Marketing Update

GLAZA VP of Marketing, Kait Hilliard, gave the following updates:

- Birth of the pudu was announced on social media. Once announced zoo received several comments on the posts as there is a K-POP star whose nickname is "Pudu". It was decided to allow fans the opportunity to raise funds to name the pudu "Hachien" after the singer. Fans raised above the \$2,000 in a matter of a couple hours.

- Attendance is still behind and that may be due to GLAZA incorrectly allocating attendance numbers by month for this fiscal year
- Zoo Lights attendance was 14% above projections and revenue was 6% above
- There will be character weekends in Spring
- Returning Sustainable Wine Dinners this year
- Have chosen Riester Agency for advertising and marketing collateral needs

Vice President Silva asked if GLAZA has received its results from the Zoo Lights surveys; Ms. Hilliard commented that had not compiled the information as of yet.

D. Zoo Director Reports

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

- Attendance and revenue continue to be 3% below projections
- Completing an RFP for EMT services at the zoo
- On 1/24 will hosting an appreciation breakfast for LAFD and Staff
- Reptile staff worked with Park Rangers to help them identify snakes within Griffith Park
- Winter Camp had a 90% fill rate
- Commissioner Hopkins put the Zoo in touch with the LA Rams; hoping for future partnerships
- The Zoo is offering discounted/free admission as well as modified day camp for LAUSD students during the LAUSD teachers strike

Commission President Winnick asked how the Commission can participate in the search for the new Zoo Director. Mrs. Verret noted she will get the Commission President in touch with the Mayor's Office.

Commissioner Chase announced this would be her last Zoo Commission meeting as she has been asked to be on the Board of the Recreation and Parks Commission. Ms. Chase will remain an advocate for the Zoo and will remain in touch. Commissioners and Mrs. Verret thanked Commissioner Chase for her time on this Board.

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 Armbruster seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY