



# MINUTES

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019 – 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  
4<sup>th</sup> District

Zoo Commissioners

Karen B. Winnick  
President

Bernardo Silva  
Vice President

Margot Armbruster

Christopher Hopkins

Richard Lichtenstein  
ex officio member

Denise M. Verret  
Interim Zoo Director

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Winnick  
Christopher Hopkins  
Margot Armbruster

### MEMEBERS ABSENT

Bernardo Silva

### 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 10:04 AM.

### AGENDA ITEM 2

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JANUARY 15, 2019

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes January 15, 2019. Commissioner Hopkins so moved, Commissioner Armbruster 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 – Ornato Grant – AZA’s Principles of Program Animal Management Course**

Jennifer Kuypers, Senior Animal Keeper discussed the course she attended as the recipient of the Ornato grant. Ms. Kuypers created a website just for the Ambassador Animal Program and utilized that to provide highlights from the course. Topics discussed:

- AZA/USDA regulations
- Enrichment
- Leadership – Increase the leadership role to include animal keepers, education staff, and volunteers
- LA Zoo already doing the best practices for their Ambassador Animal Program
- Importance of Trust – Trust between colleagues and animals in their care
- Further discussion of all the content on the website

The Commissioners asked if they could have access to the website so they could review more in-depth and ask future questions. Ms. Kuypers will provide the information to the Commission.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5 - PRESENTATION – Zoo Lights Wrap Up**

Kait Hilliard, Vice President of Marketing and Events for GLAZA gave a wrap up to the 2018 Zoo Lights.

- Over 207,000 visitors and over \$2.7 million in revenue
- Local fires affected opening attendance and took away from the Zoo Lights media presence
- This year’s installation vendor did not stick to schedule so there were delays with some of the light displays
- Four nights of rain affected attendance as well as a one night power outage
- 2018 saw even more competition for nighttime events in the local market
- Drop in attendance from 2017 to 2018
- General media coverage stayed level
- Major highlight was celebrity attended opening night
- GLAZA conducted online surveys for Zoo Lights visitors; full survey results were not provided

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6**

##### **GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

###### **A. Animal Transactions**

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

- North Eurasian eagle owl on exhibit near the play park
- Sending colobus monkey out for breeding recommendation
- Sending African fish eagle out for breeding recommendation
- Bushmaster have hatched and will be sent to other zoos

###### **B. GLAZA Update**

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

- Restricted funds have almost reached the projected \$3.5 million
- Received \$50,000 from Linda Dutton for the Dutton/Earthwatch trip; this year the students and chaperones will be visiting Costa Rica
- Miles River Direct is the new vendor running the membership program
- There has been a lot of rain but members have still been visiting

**C. Zoo Director Reports**

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

- Attendance and revenue continue to be 1% below projections for the fiscal year
- PR had a press event for “Year of the Pig”; various pig species were highlighted
- Daily News ran an article on the Zoo’s Nutrition Program
- BOE held two public scoping meeting regarding the EIR for the Zoo’s Vision Plan
- During the LAUSD teachers strike over 9,000 visitors took advantage of discounted pricing
- Flamingo Mingle has opened to the public. Visitor pay \$25 for an up close feeding experience with the Zoo’s flamingos

**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 Armbruster so moved the meeting be adjourned and Commissioner Hopkins seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:53 AM.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY