MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 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
4th District

Zoo Commissioners
Karen B. Winnick
President
Bernardo Silva
Vice President
Margot Armbruster

Christopher Hopkins

EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT
Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF
Denise M. Verret
Denise Tamura

ZOO GENERAL COUNSEL
Kimberly Miera

MEMBERS PRESENT
Karen B. Winnick
Bernardo Silva
Margot Armbruster

VISITORS
None signed in

AGENDA ITEM 1
CALL TO ORDER
Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:03AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2
APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2019
Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of February 19, 2019. Commissioner Margot Armbruster so moved, Commission Vice President Bernardo Silva seconded and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 3
GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT
No comments.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
No comments.
AGENDA ITEM 4 – PRESENTATION – Educational Partnerships and Community Engagement
Dan Keeffe, Director of Education, provided a brief overview of educational partnerships and community engagement the Zoo is actively involved with. Overall, the Zoo has approximately 140,000 school children visit on an annual basis. The Zoo has developed a good relationship with the LA County Office of Education that allows us to demonstrate how the Zoo can assist students and teachers with meeting their goals.

The Zoo has created self-guided tours for school groups and new for this year the Zoo is providing a program “Animals Up Close” that students can interact with animals and learn more about wildlife surrounding them. The Zoo is a campus site for North Hollywood High School Magnet Center. There is 100% graduation rate and the school has won several Magnet School of America awards.

The Zoo also continues its partnership with LA Unified School District by offering free admission to LAUSD students and chaperones at a reduced cost. The Zoo has also participated in LAUSD's program "Beyond the Bell" which helps migrant students to learn in a less formal atmosphere. Teachers have noted students that have participated in this program increase their literacy, self-esteem and are able to articulate what they learned. Transportation to the Zoo continues to be a cost that prohibits some school groups from coming to the Zoo, so the Zoo has increased scholarships through ZooPals that include this cost. The Zoo has also created a video to show students prior to their visit highlighting what to expect when visiting the Zoo and helps them feel welcome when they visit the Zoo. The Zoo continues to explore additional opportunities to enhance our educational partnerships and community engagement.

Commission Vice President Silva inquired if the Zoo was able to assist students and parents during the LAUSD/UTLA strike that occurred in January. Mr. Keeffe replied that the Zoo was able to offer Community Safari Days which 240 students participated in. The Zoo also allowed free admission for students which almost 9,000 students participated in. Although there was not direct media coverage about this, several parents posted on social media how thankful they were that this was an option.

Commission President Winnick said it was very impressive what the students gain when participating in these programs.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – PRESENTATION – Paso Pacifico Jaguar Conservation Partnership
Candace Sclimenti, Curator of Mammals, provided a brief overview of the Zoo’s partnership with Paso Pacifico Jaguar Conservation program. The Zoo has been supporting this project since 2014. This group has worked to set up camera traps to record wildlife in the Nicaraguan area. Several species including jaguar, puma, ocelots, deer, and paca have been seen on these traps. This group is also working with local farmers to educate them about predator/prey relationship and how predator animals within their property can be minimized in addition to providing veterinary care for the farmers’ animals. Overall, most species are recovering and the forest is recovering. They have started education programs with school age children so they become invested in conservation efforts at a younger age. The Zoo is proud to contribute to this project.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – RECOGNITION OF CONNIE MORGAN, GLAZA President
Commission President Winnick presented Connie Morgan, GLAZA President, with a plaque acknowledging her service for GLAZA and the Zoo. Ms. Winnick continued noting that Ms.
Morgan has been able to support the Zoo’s mission while leading fundraising efforts and nurturing the relationship between the two organizations. Commission Vice President Silva presented Ms. Morgan with a gift of appreciation for her work here and noted that the Zoo couldn’t function without GLAZA’s support. Commissioner Armbruster thanked Ms. Morgan for her leadership at GLAZA and helping to support the Zoo becoming a world class zoo.

Ms. Morgan thanked everyone for their kind words and she agreed that the Los Angeles Zoo deserves to be front and center attraction in Los Angeles.

AGENDA ITEM 7
GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS
A. Animal Transactions
Beth Schaefer, General Curator, discussed the latest animal transactions. Some highlights include:
- Donation of male greater roadrunner for breeding
- Loan of cape vulture chick from San Diego Safari Park
- Loan of male Speke’s gazelle for breeding

Recent births include a Francois’ langur being raised on exhibit.

Dr. Cindy Stadler answered questions regarding the deaths of babirusa, white-fronted marmoset and Chacoan peccary.

B. GLAZA Update
Genie Vasels, GLAZA Vice President of Institutional Advancement, provided an update:
- GLAZA has exceeded their annual restricted goal of $3.5M this year by $92,000
- Gifts this past month include $26,000 for ZooPals, $20,000 for education programs and $50,000 for condor program

Presale letters were sent out for this year’s Beastly Ball and invitations will be sent out soon. This year’s Beastly Ball will be May 18, 2019 and will honor Dr. Sylvia Earle, a world-renown oceanographer, and Glen Curado from World Harvest Food Bank. In addition, Connie Morgan will be honored for her work at GLAZA for the past sixteen years.

Connie introduced Dawn Petersen-Amend who will be Interim GLAZA President.

C. Events & Marketing Update
Kait Hilliard, GLAZA Vice President of Marketing Events, provided an update on recent promotions that have occurred at the Zoo such as PJ Masks and Peppa Pig costume characters. She also discussed marketing campaign that will run through June. Special events include Spring Fling and Earth Expo. Spring Break is occurring over several weeks this year so many activities will be offered during the week. The Wine-Dinner Series continues with four events from now through June. A video highlight Beastly Ball was shown which will be distributed to attract audiences. There will not be a concert this year.

There was a small discussion about a complaint received during the PJ Masks promotion. Ms. Hilliard and Mrs. Verret note that changes have been incorporated to help and minimize this in the future.
D.  **Zoo Director Reports**
  Denise Verret, Interim Zoo Director, commented on the following:
  
  - The addition of “Hope”, California condor, to the Zoo’s Bird Show as the world’s first free-flight condor has been well received. This continues to show the Zoo’s commitment to conservation.
  - Last month’s rain had a negative effect on the Zoo’s attendance and revenue. It is hopeful better weather will increase these numbers.

**AGENDA ITEM 6**
**OLD BUSINESS**
None

**AGENDA ITEM 7**
**ADJOURNMENT**
There being no more business to come before, Commission President Winnick motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Armbruster so moved and Commission Vice President Silva seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 11:10AM.

**ATTEST:**

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PRESIDENT                       SECRETARY