



MINUTES

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

TUESDAY, JULY 16, 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

Christopher Hopkins

Daryl Smith

Richard Lichtenstein
ex officio member

Denise M. Verret
Chief Executive Officer
& Zoo Director

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Winnick
Christopher Hopkins
Bernardo Silva
Daryl Smith

VISITORS

None signed in.

MEMEBERS ABSENT

Margot Armbruster

EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT

Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF

Denise Verret
Lisa Gerencser

MEDIA

None signed in.

ZOO GENERAL COUNSEL

Dov Lesel

**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 JUNE 18, 2019

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes June 18, 2019. Commission Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Hopkins seconded and the motion passed.

**AGENDA ITEM 3
GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comments

**AGENDA ITEM 4
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

No Comments



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AGENDA ITEM 5 ELECTION OF COMMISSION OFFICERS

Vice President Silva nominated President Winnick to continue as the Commission President. By unanimous vote Mrs. Winnick was re-elected as the Commission's President. President Winnick nominated Vice President Silva to continue as the Commission Vice President. By unanimous vote Mr. Silva was re-elected as the Commission's Vice President.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – PRESENTATION OF THE BROWN ACT

City Attorney Dov Lesel gave an overview of the Brown Act which covers open/public meetings of government entities. Mr. Lesel provided each Commissioner with an abbreviated copy of the Brown Act.

Mr. Lesel noted the only part of the Brown Act that the Zoo Commission currently is not following has to do with calling out the names of who creates a motion and whom seconds that motion. Discussion regarding the Commission President announcing this for the benefit of recordings of the meetings; noted the Board Secretary could also verbalize the actions.

The Brown Act can be found at:

http://ag.ca.gov/publications/2003_Intro_BrownAct.pdf

AGENDA ITEM 7 - PRESENTATION – 2019/20 City Budget

Mei Kwan, Director of Administration and Operations, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Zoo's 2019/20 City Budget. Highlights of this year's budget are as follows:

- \$25.8 million total budget
- 85% of the budget covers salary costs
- Positions have increased – now 267 positions
- Fiscal year budget assumes 10% of the Zoo's surplus funds

Ms. Kwan also discussed various revenue streams and the importance of the additional positions received. Commission President Winnick asked that copies of the presentation be emailed to all Commissioners.

AGENDA ITEM 8 GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Animal Transactions

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

- Receiving a Von Deckens hornbill for the bird show
- Female mandrill did not integrate well with our group so she is being sent to another zoo with a larger mandrill group
- Births included – Baja blue rock lizard, Eastern bongo, and a mandrill

Commission President Winnick asked about the death of a giraffe calf. Dr. Boren explained the calf was born underdeveloped and despite best efforts it died the same day. The Commission also wanted to know about female langur death that was reported at last month's meeting. Dr. Boren noted she had fallen ill as a result of complications from an unsuccessful pregnancy.

B. GLAZA Update

New GLAZA President, Tom Jacobson, introduced himself to the Commission and gave a brief bio. Fundraising goals for this fiscal year are for education programming, medical

equipment and additional Zoo needs. This year's priority is raising funds for the Angela Collier Gardens; already secured \$3 million in funding. Moving forward, Mr. Jacobson noted, the Commission would be receiving more detailed reports on GLAZA's activities.

C. Marketing and Events Update

Kait Hilliard, VP of Marketing and Events for GLAZA, discussed the summer marketing plan and events for the Zoo. The Zoo will continue with evening events such as Roaring Nights and Brew at the Zoo and GLAZA will be working on new branding. Ms. Hilliard discussed cross promotions and discounts that will be in place from now through September.

Vice President Silva inquired if they had started working on Zoo Lights. Ms. Hilliard stated they had already hired a new contractor and were in the very preliminary stages of planning.

D. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director, Denise Verret, commented on the following:

- Attendance for June was outstanding and the Zoo was able to end the fiscal year ahead of both attendance and revenue projections
- Education Division is being renamed "Learning and Engagement"; there will be presentation at a future Commission meeting regarding new programming
- Introduction of Dr. Jake Owens, the Zoo's Director of Conservation
 - Dr. Owens gave a brief bio and discussed his plans for greater outreach regarding the Zoo's current conservation program as well as his hopes to grow the program.
- Noted this is the time of new beginnings for all aspects of the Zoo

AGENDA ITEM 6

OLD BUSINESS

President Winnick wanted to confirm there would be quorum for the August meeting; all Commissioners in attendance stated they would be in town for the August meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7

ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business to come before, President Winnick motioned to adjourn the meeting; Vice President Silva so moved and Commissioner Smith seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 11:17 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY