



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 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
Bernardo Silva
Daryl Smith
Margot Armbruster
Christopher Hopkins

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 10:02 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF AUGUST 20, 2019

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes August 20, 2019. Commission Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Hopkins seconded and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 3 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comments

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

No Comments



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Association of Zoos and Aquariums

AGENDA ITEM 4 - PRESENTATION – American Association of Zoological Veterinarians (AAZV) Conference Summary

Drs. Brandon Boren and Jordan Davis-Powell gave an overview of the 2018 AAZV conference held in Prague, Czech Republic. Highlights included:

- First time event was held with international audience; over 1,000 attendees
- Weeklong conference with daily meetings/sessions and evening social networking events
- Dr. Davis-Powell presented a poster on the malignant fever in ibex herds
- Both Drs. discussed various session topics which included medical advances and extended field studies
- Prague Zoo hosted “Zoo Day”; it’s the 5th most popular zoo in the world
- The 2019 conference is scheduled to be held in St. Louis, MO
- LA Zoo veterinarians goals include:
 - Attending more conferences and continuing education for staff
 - Become Species Survival Plan (SSP) advisors
 - Create a mentor program with veterinarian students
 - Host a future AAZV conference at the LA Zoo

AGENDA ITEM 5 – GLAZA Vision

GLAZA President, Tom Jacobson, gave an overview of his vision for GLAZA:

- Goal is \$50 million in philanthropic gifts and revenue
- Three focuses for GLAZA are: Conservation, City Connection, and Fundraising
- Conservation is what brought Tom and many Board Members to GLAZA so the focus on conservation and highlighting the work of the LA Zoo is important
- Connection to the City is multi-level with combined meeting with City Departments and officials, as well as building partnerships with all Griffith Park facilities and Los Angeles Cultural organizations. Continue outreach with Ambassador Animal programs.
- Improve the Volunteer Program to make it more diverse and easier to participate for residents
- Begin campaigning for the LA Zoo Vision Plan. Tom raised \$150 million for the Natural History Museum and is looking forward to the feasibility study to move forward with fundraising for the Zoo’s growth
- Hope to increase the size of the Board of Trustees and to make it more diversified so it is a true reflection of Los Angeles
- Expect to do more physical outreach with Tom and Denise Verret attending community events
- GLAZA looking forward to working with Dr. Jake Owens, Director of Conservation on various outreach and media related to conservation
- Revising the operating agreement with the Zoo

AGENDA ITEM 7

GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Animal Transactions

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

- Incoming red tail black cockatoo
- Outgoing giant otters
- Incoming female maned wolf for breeding with our male
- Outgoing black and white Colobus monkey bachelor group

- Births included – Chinese goral, crested pheasants, and multi frog species

B. GLAZA Update

GLAZA President, Tom Jacobson, provided the following update on GLAZA:

- Attended first official GLAZA Board meeting as President
- Held book signing and lecture for Dr. Barbara Natterson this past Sunday
- Moving forward with Beastly Ball planning; Ball set for June 6, 2020
- Currently conducting search for new CFO

C. Events and Marketing Update

Kait Hilliard, VP of Marketing and Events for GLAZA, highlighted these updates:

- World Elephant Day was well attended this year
- International Vulture Awareness event went well
- Three of four Roaring Nights have been held; attendance was 10% below previous years
- Brew at the Zoo was successful
- Discussion about social media and online advertising
- GLAZA now using a “chat bot” for quicker responses to social media and website comments/questions
- Year-to-date attendance is 1% below projections while revenue is 11% below projections
- AZA *Toss the Tusk* event will be held on Sunday; press event with AZA will be held this Thursday

D. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director, Denise Verret, commented on the following:

- The Zoo’s PR division had success with stories about the mountain yellow legged frog release and a Spectrum News story about the Zoo’s Director of Conservation, Dr. Jake Owens
- Director Verret was sworn into the Board of Directors at this year’s AZA Annual Conference
- Attended Dr. Natterson lecture and is pleased to announce the reconvening of the Medical Advisory 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 and Commissioner Smith seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY