



# MINUTES

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 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  
4<sup>th</sup> 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

Valerie Flores

### AGENDA ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER

Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

### AGENDA ITEM 2

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes September 17, 2019. Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Armbruster seconded and the motion passed.

### AGENDA ITEM 3 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comments

### NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

No Comments



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Member of the California  
Association of Zoos and Aquariums

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4 – DISCUSSION OF ANNUAL COMMISSION MEETING DATES FOR 2020**

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the Zoo Commission meeting dates for 2020. Commissioner Hopkins so moved, Commissioner Armbruster seconded and the dates were accepted as proposed.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5 – PRESENTATION – Conservation Collaboration – Equine Anti-Poaching Unit for Rhino Protection**

Animal Keeper Roxane Losey presented an overview of the conservation/equine anti-poaching efforts in South Africa. Ms. Losey's first trip was part of the Ornarto grant and took place in October 2017; she has continued to stay involved with this conservation program. Most recent highlights of this effort include:

- All rangers are trained with regards to riding and caring for the horses
- Before the equine unit, the reserve would have an average of 5 contacts with poachers per month; this is down to one to two per month
- The rangers can reach the poachers on horseback. Most poachers just surrender when facing the equine anti-poaching unit
- The horses are providing an additional benefit to the local villagers; they are forming relationships with the animals and have a better understanding of the importance of various animal species
- A local villager has been hired as the horse groomer and has hopes of becoming a ranger one day; this has shown conservation is also a viable option for jobs
- The Global Conservation Force is the lead group for this program

Commissioners thanked Ms. Losey and discussed the possible growth of this effort to more areas of Africa.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6 – PRESENTATION – Saving Flamingos in South Africa**

Animal Keeper Ana Kirk discussed her recent trip to the city of Kimberly in South Africa where she worked on the rehabilitation and release of hundreds of flamingos at Kamfers Dam.

- Kamfers Dam is located outside the city of Kimberly; in 2007 a man-made island was created for flamingo breeding
- After years of severe drought conditions, the island/dam was now dry by 2018
- Besides climate issues, Kimberly also has a large feral dog problem. The feral dogs attacked the flamingos who had begun breeding on the shore
- PAAZA and AZA stepped in to provide assistance
- In 2018 a flamingo pen was built in Kimberly to house the hundreds of chicks left behind
- Chicks were divided up and sent to various locations throughout Africa for rehabilitation and rearing
- Keepers from various organizations went out to aid with releasing these chicks back into the dam
- In April 2019 there was a successful release of over 700 flamingos

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7 – Zoo Lights 2019/20 Plan**

GLAZA Director of Special Events, Sara Rodriguez, gave an overview of the new plan for Zoo Lights. GLAZA hired a new production company for this year's event. Discussion about new features and events. GLAZA Vice President of Marketing, Kait Hilliard, noted there will be an all creative plan for radio, print, outdoor, and social media marketing. The projected attendance for the entire event is 257,700. Zoo Lights opens on November 15, 2019.

**AGENDA ITEM 8  
GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

**A. Animal Transactions**

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

- Incoming male koala for breeding
- Outgoing big horn sheep
- Incoming African hedgehogs for outreach
- Outgoing cape porcupine
- Births included – Masai giraffe and blessed poison frog

**B. GLAZA Update**

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

- GLAZA Board retreat will take place this weekend
- Met with CAO/City to discuss a new operating agreement between the City and GLAZA
- Received a donation of \$300,000 for the Collier Gardens
- Received a donation of \$250,000 for conservation
- Working on zoo outreach for parochial schools
- Preparations ongoing for Beastly Ball 2020

Kait Hilliard reported that attendance is at projections while revenue is slightly behind for the year.

**C. Zoo Director Reports**

Zoo Director, Denise Verret, commented on the following:

- The Zoo assisted LA County by being a site for mock elections and testing of the new voting system
- On September 22 the Zoo hosted “Toss the Tusk”, an event where residents could turn in ivory and other illegal items for proper disposal. This event was a great educational opportunity to inform the average citizen of the importance of conservation
- The new employee onboarding video was played for the Commission

**AGENDA ITEM 9  
OLD BUSINESS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 10  
ADJOURNMENT**

There being no more business to come before, President Winnick motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Armbruster so moved and Commissioner Smith seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 11:04 AM.

ATTEST:

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY