MINUTES
BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019 – 10:00 AM
Los Angeles Zoo
5333 Zoo Drive
Los Angeles, California 90027

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
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 village 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  SECRETARY