



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, January 21, 2020 – 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
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Los Angeles
California 90027
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<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
Margot Armbruster
Daryl Smith

VISITORS

Luciana G.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Christopher Hopkins
Bernardo Silva

EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

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 10:02 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF DECEMBER 17, 2019

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes December 17, 2019. Commissioner Armbruster so moved, Commissioner Smith 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 – Learning and Community Engagement Program

Dan Keeffe, Director of Learning and Engagement (L&E), discussed the restructured, former “Education” division of the Zoo. The division is made up of 15 full-time and 50 part-time staff.

New division focus and programs include:

- “Animals Up Close” – a 30-minute interaction with one animal
- “Nature Journaling” – drawing and writing about your surroundings
- “Zoo Camps” – various types of camping experiences on zoo grounds
- “Family Nature Club” – creating connections to nature and the outdoors
- Four pillars for the division are:
 - FOCUS – Desire to seek details
 - CURIOSITY – Seeking answers
 - EMPATHY – Caring for others
 - BELONGING – Being part of something bigger
- L&E are also in charge of Zoo’s graphics and audio-visual needs
- L&E participates in Community Programs; providing outreach to audiences beyond zoo visitors as well as programming for visiting school groups
- L&E is the lead on Visitor Engagement on grounds by providing educational talks, CA Condor Recovery Zone, Behind the Scenes Tours, Animal Feedings, and Muriel’s Ranch (the Zoo’s petting zoo)

AGENDA ITEM 5 – PRESENTATION – Vision Plan EIR Project Update

Dr. Jan Green-Rebstock from the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) gave an overview of the Zoo’s EIR process/project for its Vision Plan. The City selected BOE to be the lead on the EIR process as is the normal process for the City. Beginning phases of the EIR have been completed and BOE is hopeful to have a draft report in the next couple months so there can be a more completed draft to present in Fall 2020. To complete the EIR, BOE has done land, noise, air surveys as well as community stakeholder outreach. Barring any major complications/issues the hope is to begin Phase I of the Vision Plan construction in 2024. Discussion about timeline, phasing, fundraising, and bond monies. As of January, BOE is on track with this project based on the size and scope.

AGENDA ITEM 6

GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Animal Transactions

Reptile and Amphibian Curator, Ian Recchio, provided animal transaction highlights:

- Female Sumatran tiger will be going to Phoenix as a breeding recommendation
- First AZA zoo to exhibit Palawan palm vipers; exhibit in LAIR
- Receiving African spoonbills for breeding flock
- Malaysian painted river turtles on exhibit with the gharials
- Two clutches of giant horned lizards are going to Singapore

B. GLAZA Update

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

- Received \$15,000 for Zoo Pals
- Received \$15,000 for Conservation
- Linda Duttonhaver donated \$65,000 to continue the Duttonhaver Field Studies grants
- Received over \$300,000 in County of Los Angeles Prop A funds that will be distributed to GLAZA over the next three years

- Membership numbers and revenue are down for November as well as general attendance

C. Marketing and Events Update

Kait Hilliard, Vice President of Marketing and Events for GLAZA, provided a wrap up of Zoo Lights and highlights of future events:

- Used new promotions and new contractor for this year's event
- Ten rain nights and mid-week holidays affected attendance
- Attendance between 2018 and 2019 essentially the same
- Attendance was 9% below projections and revenue was 5% below
- Discussed various discounts and promotions which may have affected revenue for Zoo Lights
- Concessions revenue was 13.8% above projections for Zoo Lights
- January 26 is "Australia Day" and the Zoo will be providing fundraising opportunities for visitors who would like to contribute to help with the Australian Bush Fires
- DC Superhero day
- In Spring there will be a "Spring Fling" and the 50th anniversary celebration of Earth Day

D. Zoo Director Reports

Zoo Director, Denise Verret, commented on the following:

- Spectacled owl hatched
- Western lowland gorilla was born over this past weekend
- An ocelot and pudu were also born
- Zoo is helping to promote the importance of this year's Census

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 Smith so moved and Commissioner Armbruster seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY