



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, February 18, 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
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
Margot Armbruster
Daryl Smith
Christopher Hopkins
Bernardo Silva

VISITORS

Rex Link
Renee Weitzer

EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF

Mei Kwan
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 10:00 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JANUARY 21, 2020

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes January 21, 2020. Commission Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Armbruster seconded and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 3 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comments

LOBBYING NOTICE

No Comments

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

No Comments



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AGENDA ITEM 4 – PRESENTATION – Behavioral Enrichment Program

Dr. Cathleen Cox, Zoo Research Director, noted that Behavioral Enrichment (BE) has been in place at the LA Zoo since 1989. The Zoo's BE program is nationally recognized by the AZA. BE is comprised of 2 full-time, 1 part-time, and 19 volunteers. Dr. Cox introduced Nancy Adams to give an overview of what BE includes:

- By studying animals' natural behaviors, BE staff create enrichment items, provide resources to Keeper staff, and maintain the edible garden and records, as well as assist with special events
- An overview of the BE workshop and edible garden
- Examples of piñatas that are used for "hunting prey" by various species
- Perching
- Recyclable items such as firehose can be used for climbing structures, hammocks, and other tactile uses

Discussion regarding exhibit planning and publicity for BE accomplishments.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – PRESENTATION – IUCN SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group Conference Summary

Director of Conservation, Dr. Jake Owens, and General Curator, Beth Schaefer, discussed their trip to Sabah, Malaysia where they attended the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC) Asian Elephant Conference. Notes and highlights included:

- SSC has a concentrated focus on 160 species
- The Asian elephant group is comprised of 110 specialists from 18 countries
- Zoo participation in IUCN conferences is relatively new; Zoo experts have knowledge that can be applied in the field from animal husbandry and educational resources to construction assistance
- Palm oil plantations in the area are exasperating the "Human/Elephant Conflict"
 - Larger plantations have the ability to scare elephants from property which forces elephants to forage elsewhere such as smaller plantations where the staff will kill elephants as a safety measure for their staff
 - Human/Elephant conflict is an ongoing problem as over 600 humans are killed by elephant's yearly vs only 350 elephants being killed by humans; this is proof that educating the locals is necessary to keep the Asian elephants alive
- Aside from local issues with elephants, there will always be the issue of poachers who kill elephant's for the purpose of collecting ivory or the elephants' skin

Discussion about creating safe passage corridors for elephants and other efforts currently in place in Malaysia.

AGENDA ITEM 6

GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Animal Transactions

General Curator, Beth Schaefer, provided animal transaction highlights:

- Incoming female tufted deer as a breeding recommendation
- Incoming lungfish for LAIR aquarium
- Received a pair of Victoria Crown pigeons
- Births included: pudu, gerenuk, and ocelot
- The spectacled owl chick is on exhibit

B. GLAZA Update

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

- Continuation of three donor field grants – Duttenhaver, Ornato, Stone; plus, the addition of the Montgomery Conservation Fellowship
- Received \$200,000 grant for Collier Gardens and swan exhibit
- Membership is behind projections due to rain days and December holidays
- Attendance is also behind projections for December; also attributed to weather and holidays
- Spring events anticipate an increase in both attendance and revenue
- For FY 18/19 the final unrestricted funds raised are \$4.7 million; of which, \$300,000 goes to the Zoo fund
- Announced the Collier Foundation made a donation to name the new gorilla “Angela”

C. Zoo Director Reports

Mei Kwan, Director of Administration and Operations, commented on the following:

- Zoo Director Denise Verret is in the UAE attending a Wildlife Diplomacy Conference
- Noted that a lobbying notice has been added to City agendas per the Ethics Commission
- Dr. Jake Owens, Beth Schaefer, and Alisa Behar traveled to Baja to discuss the Peninsular Pronghorn (berrendo) project; LA Zoo will be assisting with education outreach and other conservation assistance to make their visitor center welcoming and educational. Zoo will also be assisting with long term plan for the Berrendo program
- Zoo Mobile launched with visits to two schools that reached over 150 students
- Western lowland gorilla is a girl; the *TODAY* show featured a segment this morning on the birth and naming of the gorilla. The show clip 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 Commission Vice President Silva seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY