



**MINUTES**  
BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
VIRTUAL MEETING\*  
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022 – 10:00 AM

\* IN CONFORMITY WITH THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20 (MARCH 17, 2020) AND DUE TO CONCERNS OVER COVID-19, THIS BOARD MEETING WAS HELD ENTIRELY TELEPHONICALLY VIA ZOOM.

*“Creating dynamic experiences to connect people and animals”*

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Eric Garcetti  
Mayor

Nithya Raman  
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



An Equal  
Employment  
Opportunity  
Employer

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Karen Winnick  
Bernardo Silva  
Christopher Hopkins

**VISITORS**

No response

**EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT**

Richard Lichtenstein

**COMMISSION STAFF**

Denise Verret  
Denise Tamura  
Lisa Gerencser

**MEDIA**

No response

**ZOO GENERAL COUNSEL**

Steve Houchin

**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 MEETINGS OF APRIL 12 & 28, 2022**

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of the past two meetings. Commissioner Hopkins so moved, Vice President Silva seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**AGENDA ITEM 3  
GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comments

**LOBBYING NOTICE**

No Comments

**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

No Comments

Accredited by the Association  
of Zoos and Aquariums

Accredited by the American  
Association of Museums

Member of the California  
Association of Zoos and Aquarium

**AGENDA ITEM 4**

**FINDINGS TO CONTINUE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 361 / GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e)(3)**

President Winnick asked for a motion to approve findings that virtual meetings are still necessary. Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Hopkins seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

**AGENDA ITEM 5**

**PRESENTATION – Guidelines to Facilitate Human-Wildlife Interactions in Conservation Translocations**

Director of Conservation, Dr. Jake Owens, discussed a paper he and his colleagues published in February regarding Guidelines to Facilitate Human-Wildlife Interactions in Conservation Translocations. This group was formed from IUCN members 2018 to become Conservation Translocation Specialist. Topics from the presentation and discussion included:

- Positive and negative impacts of human-wildlife interactions
- Guidelines for conservation translocation required input from experts in multidisciplinary knowledge
- Five stages to the guidelines: Planning, Initiation, Implementation, End Stage, and Post End Stage
- Trust between interested stakeholders and locals must be built
- Appropriate education and awareness programs
- Understand the role accredited zoos and aquariums play
- Must be enough funding and resources to sustain the program from planning to post end stage

Dr. Owens noted that the paper is public and will share it with the Commissioners.

**AGENDA ITEM 6**

**GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

**A. Animal Updates**

Beth Schaefer, General Curator, provided the following transaction updates:

- Outgoing female pronghorn to San Diego Zoo Safari Park
- Eight California condor chicks are with parents and doing well
- Four Bali myna birds outgoing to Tracy Aviary in Utah
- Male harbor seal pup born
- Male Masai giraffe born

**B. GLAZA Update**

GLAZA President Tom Jacobson gave the following update:

- Achieved 158% of total restricted fundraising goal for the year
- Membership is up to almost 43,000 households
- Attendance and revenue continue to do well above projections
- All other sources of revenue two times ahead of projections
- Beastly Ball has received over \$1,000,000 in commitments; The Ball will take place on June 4, 2022

**C. Zoo Director Update**

Zoo Director Denise Verret provided the following updates:

- AZA held first in person conference in two years; the Mid-year conference was hosted by the Aquarium of the Pacific in April
- L.A. Zoo was site of a preconference tour that sold out; very positive feedback from colleagues
- L.A. Zoo hosted the Southern California Confiscation Network Workshop; this group is working with law enforcement and other agencies on comprehensive guidelines to assist in the confiscation of animals
- Director Verret discussed her trip to South Africa. The tour included stops in Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe. This was a life changing trip and reinforces the importance of the role zoos play in conservation

**AGENDA ITEM 7  
OLD BUSINESS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 8  
ADJOURNMENT**

There being no more business to come before, President Winnick motioned to adjourn the meeting; Vice President Silva so moved, and Commissioner Hopkins seconded. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 AM.

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY