



MINUTES
BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
VIRTUAL MEETING*
TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 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”

Los Angeles Zoo
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Eric Garcetti
Mayor

Nithya Raman
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



An Equal
Employment
Opportunity
Employer

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Winnick
Bernardo Silva
Margot Armbruster
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 10:05 AM.

**AGENDA ITEM 2
APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETINGS OF MAY 17 & 31, 2022**

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of the past two meetings. Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Hopkins 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 Aquariums

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 Armbruster seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

AGENDA ITEM 5

PRESENTATION – Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP)/Los Angeles Zoo Solar + Storage + EV Grid Resiliency Project

Director of Sustainability and Capital Projects, Carol Armstrong, discussed the importance of the years' long partnership between the City, LADWP and the Zoo. This project is consistent with our Vision Plan and the Mayor's Green New Deal. In April 2022, DWP completed a site visit and recommendations for this project. The Bureau of Engineering (BOE) recommended \$8 million investment to begin which was approved by the City Council and Mayor's office. The MOU between LADWP and the Zoo is anticipated to be approved by the Board of LADWP Commissioners at their July 2022 meeting. Vin Vongvaravipat and Stephanie Macoritto from LADWP provided the following highlights of the project:

- Project will consist of Solar Rooftops, Batteries, additional EV Chargers, and Solar Carport in the Far North Parking Lot
- Addition of EV Charger to the Health Center
- Zoo facilities identified for Solar Rooftop installation – LAIR, Administration Building, Carousel, and the Children's Discovery Center
- Total cost for entire project will be \$47 million (\$8 million from Zoo – \$39 million from LADWP; all funded by City of LA)
- Estimated timeline is July 2022 – March 2024, with additional minor work through FY 26
- Once completed, will be the largest municipal solar installation

Vice President Silva asked how this project will impact the parking and entrance features in the Vision Plan. Zoo Director Denise Verret assured the Commission that the solar projects are part of and conducive to the Zoo's Vision Plan. Mr. Silva asked about landscaping plans for under and/or around the carport. Ms. Armstrong noted she will be working with the Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) on peripheral landscaping.

President Winnick asked about the electrical benefit to the Zoo and possible public perception with construction going on while working on the Vision Plan. Ms. Macoritto noted that the carport will be supplying energy to the City's grid; the Zoo will see a reduction in utility costs. Mrs. Verret explained that this project works in concert with the Vision Plan as the messaging to the public will continue to be Green Practices, Conservation, and Sustainability.

AGENDA ITEM 6

GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Animal Updates

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

- Male takin going to Minnesota Zoo as breeding recommendation
- Incoming male pronghorn as a breeding recommendation
- Last red-rumped agouti going to Cameron Park Zoo & Botanical Society in Texas as a breeding recommendation
- South American Bushmaster hatched
- Total of ten California condor chicks for this breeding season

B. GLAZA Update

GLAZA President Tom Jacobson gave the following update:

- Achieved 159% (\$2.38 million) of total restricted fundraising goal for the year
- Membership is over 44,000 households
- Attendance is 60% above projections and revenue is at 140% above projections
- Beastly Ball raised \$1.4 million and had over 700 attendees

C. Zoo Director Update

Zoo Director Denise Verret provided the following updates:

- Reopened Muriel's Ranch with limited days and times to allow the animals to reacclimate
- Zoo Camp begins today and runs through August. Camp is sold out with 120 campers weekly. Camp is for children 5 – 13 years old.
- Learning and Engagement staff will visit 36 Recreation and Parks Summer Play programs this summer to continue our community outreach and engagement
- Zoo was a Vote Center for the Primary Elections
- Last week launched the first paid Zoo internship. Fourteen college students will spend the next 10 weeks working and learning about Conservation, Education, and Animal Nutrition

**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 10:40 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY