



**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS**  
**OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING\***  
**TUESDAY, JULY 19, 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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 323/644-4200  
 Fax 323/662-9786  
<http://www.lazoo.org>

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  
 Margot Armbruster  
 Christopher Hopkins  
 Daryl Smith

**VISITORS**

No response

**EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT**

Richard Lichtenstein

**COMMISSION STAFF**

Denise Verret  
 Denise Tamura

**MEDIA**

No response

**ZOO GENERAL COUNSEL**

Steve Houchin

**AGENDA ITEM 1**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

**AGENDA ITEM 2**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2022**

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Smith 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 Smith seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5**

##### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Vice President Silva, nominated President Winnick to continue as Commission President. Commissioner Smith seconded the nomination. Nomination passed by unanimous vote. President Winnick nominated Vice President Silva to continue as Vice President. Commissioner Hopkins seconded the nomination. Nomination passed by unanimous vote.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6**

##### **PRESENTATION – 2022/23 APPROVED CITY BUDGET**

Deputy Director Mei Kwan, provided an overview of the Zoo's approved City budget for FY 23.

- Budget requests are due November of prior fiscal year (November 2021)
- Budget requests were based on some COVID-19 assumptions related to operations
- Attendance history review; project 1.5 million visitors in FY 23
- Revenue history review; project \$15 million in FY 23
- Total operating budget approved for the Zoo is \$27.7 million – represents an 11% increase from prior FY
- Discussed source of funding
- Provided budget goal for this fiscal year

Commissioner Hopkins asked if the Zoo was contemplating a ticket price increase based on current inflation. Deputy Director Kwan explained that ticketing pricing is reviewed every year, but this year no increase was considered based on equitable access to the Zoo. Vice President Silva asked if we've surveyed other institutions to review operations and ticket costs. President Winnick asked to review the latest comparisons with other facilities. Director Verret noted she will provide the Commission with the last comparison completed.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7**

##### **GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

###### **A. Animal Updates**

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

- Outgoing bat-eared fox as SSP recommendation
- Santa Ana Zoo is now involved in the mountain yellow-legged frog breeding and release program
- Invertebrates added to LAIR
- Archerfish hatchlings
- Roti island snake necked turtles have bred and hatchlings will be translocated back to the wild

###### **B. GLAZA Update**

GLAZA President Tom Jacobson gave the following update:

- Achieved 161% (\$2.4 million) of total restricted fundraising goal for the year
- Membership is over 44,000 households

- Attendance and revenue continue to be well ahead of projections
- GLAZA received \$2 million from the State in this year's budget
- President Jacobson noted he will have final FY 22 numbers at the August meeting
- GLAZA will be hosting Zoo Lights this winter

**C. Zoo Director Update**

Zoo Director Denise Verret provided the following updates:

- Six weeks into the paid internship program
- Zoo Camp is in week five and continues to be well attended
- In connection with Recreation and Parks, the Zoo's Learning & Engagement staff will be visiting 36 camp sites throughout the City – bringing the Zoo to you.
  - The Zoo submitted the EIR for the Vision Plan to City Council in July 2021. Since then, the Zoo has received over 300 comments related to the EIR/Vision Plan. Zoo staff met with stakeholders and reviewed public comment. After much consideration, the Zoo has developed Alternative 1.5 – California Focused Alternative. Director Verret noted this is the environmentally superior alternative. Alternative 1.5 removed the parking structure, aerial tram, and increased protection for current flora and fauna. Public comment began on July 14 and will end on August 29 with a virtual public meeting being held in August. Director Verret is hopeful this new plan will go before Council in the fall.

President Winnick asked to include the EIR/Vision Plan to the next agenda for further discussion and take possible action.

Vice President Silva asked how GLAZA's Friday Nights are going. GLAZA President Jacobson noted there was an attendance increase between the first and second nights and they anticipate more attendance as word of mouth gets out.

**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 10:46 AM.

**ATTEST:**

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY