



MINUTES
BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
VIRTUAL MEETING*
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 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
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
Margot Armbruster
Christopher Hopkins
Daryl Smith

VISITORS

No response

EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

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 MEETING OF OCTOBER 18, 2022**

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

AGENDA ITEM 5

PRESENTATION - BEARDED VULTURE “BRED 4 THE WILD” PROJECT IN SOUTH AFRICA

Lead Condor Keeper, Chandra David, provided a summary of her trip to South Africa to work with bearded vultures. Highlights of the trip included:

- Ms. David was asked to assist with the new breeding facilities in South Africa based on her 20+ years of work with the California condor recovery program. Both programs are similarly managed
- Currently less than 250 bearded vultures in the wild in South Africa
- Unique challenges during this trip – power-grid shut down, freezing temperatures, and tough terrain to reach nests
- Five eggs hatched while at the facility and all birds are doing well.
- Currently utilizing hatchlings to set-up “founder breeding group” for this facility

AGENDA ITEM 6

PRESENTATION - CAPE VULTURE EXHIBIT PROJECT IN FOCUS

Darryl Pon, Manager of Capital Projects, discussed the new cape vulture exhibit. Project has been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Current exhibit is off public viewing behind the Rainforest of the Americas Exhibit
- Original exhibit was built in the 1980s and is in a state of disrepair
- LAZ has bred and housed cape vultures since the 1990s, but there has been no successfully breeding since 2012
- New exhibit will replace the old ibex exhibit near gorilla and orangutan exhibits
- New exhibit will have over 2700 square feet, private nesting area, and public viewing platforms
- Funding for the project is being provided by the City, State, and GLAZA donors
- Anticipate work to begin January 2023 with completion in October 2023
- Potential exhibit opening Winter 2023/24

AGENDA ITEM 7

GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Animal Updates

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

- Incoming male pronghorn as breeding recommendation
- Outgoing male CA condors to Oregon as breeding recommendation
- Outgoing male siamang as breeding recommendation

B. GLAZA Update

GLAZA President Tom Jacobson gave the following update:

- Restricted fundraising for FY 23 is at 75% of goal with over \$2.4 million raised
- Membership continues to be behind projections; currently over 40,000 households
- Attendance and revenue are behind projections for September, while other revenue sources continue to do well
- Sponsorship has raised \$667,000 of its \$1 million goal

- Boo at the Zoo was successful and increased attendance and revenue for the FY
- Zoo Lights ticket sales are doing well
- Reminder that there will be a Sensory Inclusive night and the first ever Pride night during this year's Zoo Lights

C. Zoo Director Update

Zoo Director Denise Verret provided the following updates:

- Australia House has reopened to the public which provides nocturnal viewing of wombats
- L&E staff created the second annual Beloved Pets Ofrenda with Plaza de la Raza and it was visited by over 3,000 guests
- L&E staff created an endangered species Ofrenda in connection with Mujeres de la Tierra, Day of the Dead celebrations
- Teen Council for Conservation was welcomed this past Saturday. Over 100 applications were received. Thirty students representing all 15 Council Districts were selected to be part of the inaugural group
- Mrs. Verret attended this year's WAZA conference in Spain. Conference was attended by over 200 international zoo leaders. Mrs. Verret moderated a panel on Diversity and Inclusion at the conference.

**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 Hopkins so moved, and Commissioner Smith seconded. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY