



MINUTES
BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
VIRTUAL MEETING*
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023, – 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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Karen Bass
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
Daryl Smith

EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT

Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF

Denise Verret
Denise Tamura
Cristina Flores

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 JANUARY 17, AND FEBRUARY 8, 2023**

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

**AGENDA ITEM 3
GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comments

LOBBYING NOTICE

No Comments

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

No Comments

VISITORS

No response

MEDIA

No response

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

PRESENTATION – GIANT OTTER WORKSHOP AND REINTRODUCTION IN ARGENTINA

Dr. Jake Owens, Director of Conservation, discussed his trip to Argentina in November 2022 which focused on giant otters

- Discussed conservation translocations of the Conservation Strategic Plan – expand guide and improve wildlife release programs by identifying new partnerships
- Giant Otters current Conservation Status is Endangered
- Total population is less than 5,000 in 10 South American Countries
- Ibera Wetlands facility visit resulted in the creation of the International Giant Otter Alliance as well as a strategy to develop WAZA global species management plan
- Ibera National Park and El Impenetrable National park have had two recent encounters, the first sightings since the 1980's
- As part of the International Giant Otter Alliance the Los Angeles Zoo is now part of a partnership working to repopulate giant otters in Argentina and working to develop WAZA Global Species Management Plan.

AGENDA ITEM 5

PRESENTATION – ZOO LIGHTS “ANIMALS AGLOW” SUMMARY

Emily Marrin, GLAZA Director of Marketing & Communications, provided a brief summary of the recent Zoo Lights “Animals Aglow” Event. Specifically,

- New experience, new name and a price increase
- Experience was to be more inclusive, with no references to November/December holidays
- Community engagement and partnerships included a Pride Night and a Sensory-inclusive experience for Lunar New Year Nights
- Paid advertisements were almost exclusively digital advertisements with some grocery store promotions targeting diverse audiences and raised awareness of Lunar New Year programming
- 84% of social media sentiment was positive
- Surveys sent to attendees resulted in 81% Excellent or Very Good results, 45% missing the holiday elements with the highest rated aspects being, displays, parking and atmosphere.

AGENDA ITEM 6

GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

a. Animal Updates

Beth Schaefer, Director of Animal Programs, provided the following updates:

- A pair of Fiji banded iguanas loaned from San Diego Zoo in an SSP breeding recommendation
- A Dunn's hog-nosed pitviper loaned to San Antonio Zoo as part of a breeding recommendation
- One male cape vulture donated from San Diego Zoo Safari Park, a SSP recommendation
- Births included a black howler monkey, a François langur and several hatched giant horned lizards

b. GLAZA Updates

Tom Jacobson, GLAZA President, provided the following updates

- 97% of this fiscal year's goal has already been reached, just halfway through the fiscal year.
- The goal to raise \$3 Million for Conservation has been met.

- Negative trend of purchased memberships has been reversed with over 38,000 households
 - Memberships are projected to be slightly under goal at the end of the fiscal year.
- c. Zoo Director Updates
- Denise Verret, Zoo Director, provided the following updates
- Condor egg laying season has begun – 7 eggs have been laid
 - In partnership with Recreation and Parks the Zoo has established the Griffith Park West Trail Habitat Restoration Project that meets once a month and has cleared over 6,000 invasive plant and identified 31 bird species
 - Family Nature Club participated in the L.A. Works' MLK Day of Service held at the coliseum, that also commemorates Martin Luther King's speech given at the Coliseum in 1964.
 - Family Nature Club is back connecting children and families to the natural world in partnership with Recreation & Parks. The family nature club has added a book borrowing program.
 - In partnership with the LA Public Libraries, Discover & Go Program offers the opportunity for library card holders to borrow passes to the Zoo, providing the opportunity to those who may not otherwise have the opportunity to visit the Zoo. The Zoo has welcomed over 1,600 members of the community through this program.

**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 Armbruster seconded. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY