



“Creating a just and sustainable world where people and wildlife, thrive”

MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, July 18, 2023 – 10:00 AM
IN-PERSON MEETING
Los Angeles Zoo
Grand Room
5333 Zoo Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027

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5333 Zoo Drive
Los Angeles
California 90027
323/644-4200
Fax 323/662-9786
www.lazoo.org

COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS WILL BE HEARD ONLY AT THE TIME THE RESPECTIVE ITEM IS CONSIDERED. COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC ON ALL OTHER MATTERS WITHIN THE SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD WILL BE HEARD DURING THE “PUBLIC COMMENTS” PERIOD DESIGNATED ON THIS AGENDA. THE PUBLIC IS REQUESTED TO FILL OUT A SPEAKER CARD TO ADDRESS ANY AGENDA ITEMS.

Karen Bass
Mayor

Note: Sign Language Interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72-hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. For additional information, please contact the Commission office at (323) 644-4218. TDD available at (323) 644-6688.

Nithya Raman
Council Member
4th District

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM

Zoo Commissioners

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF June 20, 2023

Karen B. Winnick
President

Commission President Winnick requested approval of the minutes of the last meeting. Vice President Silva moved, Commissioner Vannatim seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Bernardo Silva
Vice President

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Gonzalez

Public comments are limited to a total of three minutes per person.

Daryl Smith

No Comments

Elnie Vannatim

Richard Lichtenstein
Ex Officio Member

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMENTS

Discussion with Neighborhood council representatives on Neighborhood Council Resolutions or Community Impact Statements filed with the City Clerk which relate to any agenda item listed or being considered on this agenda.

Denise M. Verret
Chief Executive Officer
& Zoo Director

No Comments

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Vice President Silva nominated Karen Winnick as President, seconded by Commissioner Smith. President Winnick was voted President by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Smith nominated Bernardo Silva as Vice President, seconded by President Winnick. Vice President Silva was voted Vice president by unanimous vote.



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5. PRESENTATION – BROWN ACT

Deputy City Attorney, Steve Houchin discussed the Brown Act

- Mr. Houchin reviewed the California state law covering open meetings for local governmental bodies, contained in the Government code. Explaining the established rules designed to ensure that actions and deliberations of commissions, boards, councils and other public bodies of local agencies are taken openly and with public access and input which includes advisory bodies like the Zoo Commission.
- Mr. Houchin explained that anytime the majority or more of the Board members meet, that would be considered a meeting and would have to follow the “meeting” rules for posting, providing agenda, and must be accessible to the public. This would include social media interactions.

6. PRESENTATION – L.A. ZOO TEEN COUNCIL FOR CONSERVATION

Community Conservation Coordinator, Anna Becker made a presentation regarding the L.A. Zoo Teen Council for Conservation.

- The Teen council for Conservation engages youth ages 14 – 18 in Los Angeles to build a conservation network that supports new generations in leadership through social and environmental action.
- The Councilmembers worked with various partners on local field work and collected wildlife observations in the cold spots within their council districts contributing to the LA’s Green New Deal and LA Sanitation’s Biodiversity Index Report.
- Inaugural Teen Councilmembers shared about their experiences and the impact the program has made on them. They discussed the skills they were able to develop and learn, as well as their experiences in outreach and the impacts they had on the community.
- Participants in the program gained confidence and felt better able to take action on conservation issues in their communities.

7. GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

a. Animal Updates

Director of Animal Programs, Beth Schaefer, provided Animal Updates:

- Female Maned Wolf was transferred to Boise and the male went out in a direct transfer with a zoo in Kansas.
- Births/Hatchings
 - The last condor hatched
 - Two Southern Pudu were born
- Rhino has not yet arrived from Nebraska; the Zoo is now waiting on availability of the transportation company.

b. GLAZA Updates

GLAZA President, Tom Jacobson gave the following update:

- At the end of June, the fundraising goal of \$3.2 Million was exceeded.
- Part of the funds raised included a donation from Betty White’s estate for the Zoo Pals program.
- Memberships have continued to recover, slightly exceeding monthly goals.

c. Zoo Director Updates

Zoo Director, Denise Verret gave the following updates:

- Migrant Education Program, a partnership with LAUSD is coming to an end for the summer, with a Culmination event where the parents will be invited.
- Los Angeles Public Library partnership with the Zoo has also come to an end. Zoo staff visited 34 libraries throughout the City engaging children and teaching them to enjoy nature in their neighborhood.
- LA Zoo's Vision Plan EIR has been approved at committee level, the next step is Council consideration.

8. OLD BUSINESS

None

9. ADJOURNMENT – 11:10

There being no more business to come before the Zoo Commission, President Winnick asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting; Vice President Silva so moved, and Commissioner Vannitam seconded. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM