



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

MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, August 15, 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 10:03 AM

Zoo Commissioners

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF July 18, 2023

Karen B. Winnick
President

Commission President Winnick requested approval of the minutes of the last meeting. Commissioner Vannatim moved, Commissioner Smith 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. PRESENTATION – LA ZOO PAID INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Rachel Helfing, Dr. Earyn McGee and Rosalio Rubio made a presentation regarding the Paid Internship Program.

- The presenters discussed the ten-week Paid Internship Program (PIP) and how it is designed to provide Los Angeles area college students from systemically excluded identities in Los Angeles with the opportunity to exposure in the zoo and conservation fields.
- Interns gained essential job-related knowledge, skills, confidence and a sense of belonging in fields where they have historically been excluded,



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creating more qualified minority candidates to apply for paid positions at the LA Zoo.

- Interns spoke about the impacts they had in their communities and the skills gained through the program. They also discussed how they were able to apply the skills and knowledge they developed while diving into the zoo and conservation fields that they had not expected.
- The presenters and interns discussed the impact they were able to have on their communities, and with Zoo visitors. This program was able to make an impact with important data collection and research for local conservation.
- Interns also assisted in piloting programs for possible future implementation, engaging guests, fostering curiosity and leaving a lasting impact on multiple generations.

5. GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

a. Animal Updates

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

- Loans
 - Male Komodo Dragon sent to Clyde Peeling's Reptiland in Pennsylvania as part of the Species Survival Program (SSP).
 - Male Southern hairy-nosed wombat to Zoo Miami
 - Female Squirrel Monkey to America's Teaching Zoo/Moorpark College as an exhibit animal.
- Births/Hatchings
 - Southern Gerenuk was born and is doing well with the mother in the regular exhibit.
 - Cape thick-knee chick hatched

b. GLAZA Updates

GLAZA President, Tom Jacobson gave the following update:

- By the end of June, the fundraising efforts had exceeded the annual goal of \$3.3 million.
- Memberships were over the goal for June and attendance exceeded projections for the year with over 100,000 more than the year before.
- Concessions and site rentals have also surpassed goals

c. Zoo Director Updates

Zoo Director, Denise Verret gave the following updates:

- The Youth Development Department hosted the City of Los Angeles first Youth Expo at Exposition Park, at which the Zoo participated and was able to engage with the youth in the community.
- LA Zoo Camp concluded last week after a very successful summer, that included scholarships for A Place Called Home which included transportation and meals for 50 children from South Los Angeles
- Various news outlets covered the Zoo in regards to the EIR approved by the City Council as well as the excessive heat wave

and how the animals were keeping cool in addition to providing ideas to the public for how to help keep their pets cool.

6. OLD BUSINESS
None

7. ADJOURNMENT – 11:10
There being no more business to come before the Zoo Commission, President Winnick asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Smith so moved, and Commissioner Vannatim seconded. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:49 AM