



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

MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 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 10:02 AM

Zoo Commissioners

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF September 19, 2023
Commission Vice President Silva requested approval of the minutes of the last meeting. Commissioner Gonzalez moved, Commissioner Vannatim seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Karen B. Winnick
President

Bernardo Silva
Vice President

Mark Gonzalez

3. PUBLIC COMMENT
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 – ORNATO ADVANCED FIELD STUDIES PROGRAM
AFRICAN PAINTED DOG TRUST PROJECT

Rosalio Rubio, Curator of Education made a presentation on the following:

- Mr. Rubio discussed his trip to Zimbabwe thanks to the expansion of the Ornato Advanced Field Studies Grant, that now includes education to contribute to the program.
- Mr. Rubio was able to work with the schools in Zimbabwe in developing programs such as a conservation club, where he was able to teach the children through art and other creative teaching methods. The children



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in the villages were exposed to new ways of learning, resources and experiences through this program.

- Mr. Rubio noted that children all over the world are similar, they are all curious and filled with wonder.
- Mr. Rubio also participated in Field Research, setting camera traps and compiling data. The team was able to spot five Painted Dogs and observe their behaviors.
- Mr. Rubio discussed his goal to make the Zoo more accessible to the communities and to create more programs for community members.

5. GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

a. Animal Updates

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

- Loans/Sales
 - Male Snow leopard from Canada arrives as part of SSP.
 - Female River Otter is going out on loan to Buenos Aires, Argentina for breeding, offspring planned to be released in the wild.
 - Bighorn Ram adult male and two offspring sold to West Texas Wildlife Preserve in Texas as SSP breeding recommendation.
 - 20 Vampire Crabs from San Diego have arrived for breeding.
- Births/Hatchings
 - Two more Southern Gerenuks were born and are with the herd.
 - One Male Giraffe was born and will be on exhibit soon.
 - Five Tamaulipan rock rattlesnakes hatched.

b. GLAZA Updates

GLAZA Vice President for Advancement, Janet Dial gave the following update:

- Slow start in fundraising with contributions to support the Conservation Strategic Plan and Education Programs
- Memberships have been steady the past month, with attendance slightly down in September but rising again slightly in October.
- Concessions and site rentals are slightly above goal.
- GLAZA was able to secure a huge donation from Mars for Boo at the Zoo.
- A Zoo children's book, written by GLAZA Editor Brenda Royce *Angela & Lulinga, Two Gorillas, a world Apart* is on shelves in the Zoo gift shops as well as available on Amazon.

c. Zoo Director Updates

Zoo Director, Denise Verret gave the following updates:

- The Zoo held a World Gorilla day event with day and evening events, in partnership with G.R.A.C.E. The book release for Angela & Lulinga was announced as part of this event.

- The Zoo was invited to participate in the Travel Town Foundation event and the Central Ave Jazz Festival, where they were able to engage with the communities.
- In support of the LA Civil Rights Department's second annual LA for All week, September 25 – 30, 2023, the iconic L.A. Zoo entry sign was lit up on Thursday night with a multi-color display. The L.A. Zoo was one of many historic and iconic Los Angeles landmarks including City Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, Pylons at LAX, the 6th Street Viaduct, the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and the Port of Los Angeles.
- The Zoo received media coverage for our World Gorilla day event, the announcement of the Baby Tamandua and the second annual Pets Ofrenda.

6. OLD BUSINESS

None

7. ADJOURNMENT – 10:33

There being no more business to come before the Zoo Commission, President Winnick asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Silva so moved, and Commissioner Vannatim seconded. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 AM