



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023 – 10:00 AM
IN-PERSON MEETING
Los Angeles Zoo
Grand Room
5333 Zoo Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027

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

Los Angeles Zoo
5333 Zoo Drive
Los Angeles
California 90027
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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 10:04 AM

Zoo Commissioners

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF October 17, 2023
Commission President Winnick requested approval of the minutes of the last meeting. Commissioner Smith moved, Vice President Silva 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 – ANNUAL ZOO COMMISSION DATES
The Zoo Commission discussed the proposed meeting dates for the 2024 calendar year and unanimously approved the dates as listed in the proposed 2024 Commission meeting dates memo dated November 21, 2023.



5. PRESENTATION – CONSERVATION STRATEGIC PLAN – ANNUAL UPDATE
Dr. Jake Owens, Director of Conservation made a presentation on the following:

An Equal Employment
Opportunity Employer

Accredited by the Association
of Zoos and Aquarium

Member of the American
Alliance of Museums

Member of the California Association
of Zoos and Aquariums

- Dr. Owens discussed the six guiding principles and areas of the Conservation Strategic Plan (CSP), highlighting the growth since it launched in 2021 and discussing plans for growth in 2024.
- The CSP is supported by more than just the Conservation Division working together on various projects and outreach work such as the Beans for Birds event promoting bird friendly coffee, Griffith Park West Trail restoration project, Plastic Free Ecochallenge and more.
- The Zoo has partnered with various organizations, such as the Theodore Payne Foundation for the CDC Native Plant Garden and USC Wrigley Institute for Environment and Sustainability with funding for two interns for our Paid Internship Program (PIP).
- Dr. Owens discussed how programs have grown such as PIP which started with two interns and is now at twenty-one interns working with three divisions. The Teen Council for Conservation has plans to meet more frequently and add trips as well as mentorships for the coming year.
- The Zoo has also partnered with various organizations in various conservation efforts such as, Not a Pet Campaign, Illegal Wildlife Trade, Riding for Rhinos Global Conservation Force, Macaw Recovery Network, and many more.
- Dr. Owens also highlighted the Zoo's various ongoing conservation programs, such as the successful California Condor Recovery project and the AZA North American Songbird SAFE Program.

6. L.A. ZOO LIGHTS PROGRAM

Sara Rodriguez, GLAZA Vice President of Special Events and Operations and Emily Marrin, Director of Marketing and Communications presented the following:

- This year's L.A. Zoo Lights: Animals A Glow was made possible by the Zoo's partnership with Tianyu and with sponsorship from US Bank, this year's event focuses on the Zoo's mission to connect with nature.
- Ms. Rodriguez described the layout and how as you walk through the Zoo, you will be taken through the various landscapes including the Animals in California, Dazzling Desert Scape and Holiday-themed Winter Wildlands
- Ms. Marrin discussed the marketing and revenue goals for this event detailing marketing strategies focusing on awareness, consideration and action. Marketing for this event includes social media promotions, paid commercials as well as ads on busses, in supermarkets and banks.

7. GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

a. Animal Updates

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

- Loans/Sales
 - One male Red Billed Blue Magpie going on loan to New Orleans as breeding recommendation.

- One male Von der Decken's hornbill is going to North Carolina Zoo as breeding recommendation.
- One male Southern Gerenuk is going the West Texas Wildlife Preserve as recommended by SSP.
- One Southern Gerenuk arrived from the Denver Zoological Garden as part of a breeding recommendation
- Births/Hatchings
 - Twenty-Seven Giant Horned Lizards have hatched

b. GLAZA Updates

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

- The Zoo received a \$1.0 million anonymous gift to support the CSP as well as donations received for funds needed for a new washer and dry for the great apes.
- Ms. Dial explained that there were several other donations in process and that we could expect many updates at the next meeting.
- Membership and attendance have been steadily increasing and were above goal.
- Concessions and site rentals are above goal this month.

c. Zoo Director Updates

Zoo Director, Denise Verret gave the following updates:

- The Zoo launched the second Cohort of the Teen Council for Conservation at the end of October.
- The Zoo was awarded a \$3.6 million grant from the State of California Wildlife Conservation Board in partnership with Outward Bound Adventures for the Oak Woodland Restoration and Career Pathways Project
- The Zoo's Family Nature Club program returned for the 2023-2024 season at the end of October.
- Griffith Park's P-22 Festival was also held at the end of October and the Zoo participated with a booth, engaging people with information about local wildlife and conservation as well as providing information about the Zoo's partnership with the Los Angeles Public Library's Discover and Go program.
- The Zoo was featured in the *Los Angeles Times* for the Launch of the Southern California Confiscations Network in partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and many other Southern California zoological facilities and partners.
- The Associated Press covered the Zoo for the historic California condor vaccine trials.

- Telemundo and the *Los Angeles Daily News* featured the birth of our youngest Giraffe.

8. OLD BUSINESS
None

9. ADJOURNMENT – 11:07

There being no more business to come before the Zoo Commission, President Winnick asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Gonzalez so moved, and Commissioner Smith seconded. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 11:07 AM.