



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024 – 10:00 AM

Los Angeles Zoo
Grand Room
5333 Zoo Drive
Los Angeles, Ca 90027

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

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Winnick
Bernardo Silva
Elnie Vannatim
Mark Gonzalez

VISITORS

None signed in

Karen Bass
Mayor

EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

Not present

Nithya Raman
Council Member
4th District

COMMISSION STAFF

Denise Verret
Cristina Flores

MEDIA

None signed in

Zoo Commissioners

Karen B. Winnick
President

ZOO GENERAL COUNSEL

Steve Houchin

Bernardo Silva
Vice President

AGENDA ITEM 1

CALL TO ORDER

Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM

Mark Gonzalez

Daryl Smith

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of the past three meetings. Commission Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Hopkins seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Elnie Vannatim

Richard Lichtenstein
Ex Officio Member

AGENDA ITEM 3

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comments

Denise M. Verret
Chief Executive Officer
& Zoo Director

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

No Comments

AGENDA ITEM 4

PRESENTATION – INCREASING ZOO ACCESS – L.A. COUNTY MEASURE A GRANT PROGRAM

Dan Keeffe, Director of Learning and Engagement made a presentation on the following:



- Mr. Keeffe described the Zoo field trip program, it's history and it's participants and how the data was analyzed and used to apply for the Measure A Grant.
- Mr. Keeffe discussed how they used the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Spaces District (RPOSD) criteria to determine the areas that would be targeted for the grant. In order to continue to serve the areas in need identified by the RPOSD and the areas that had the least visits from schools. These are the areas of Los Angeles County that have a high need for parks.
- In January of 2023, the Zoo was awarded the grant that will span over 3 years totaling \$979,000. The program being called Safari Days will be targeting 2nd and 3rd grade students in these high need areas. As a participant in this program the Zoo will workshop with teachers, provide curriculum and free busses for field trips.

AGENDA ITEM 5

GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

a. Animal Updates

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

- Loans/Sales
 - One male Domestic Chincilla has go to Alana Voeller in Reseda, California as a retired ambassador animal.
 - Red-flanked duiker female has gone to Oklahoma City Zoological Park in Oclahoma as a breeding recommendation from the Species Survival Plan
- Births/Hatchlings
 - An Eastern black-and-white colobus was born.

b. GLAZA Updates

GLAZA Interim President, Dawn Petersen-Amend gave the following update:

- Zoo Lights closed with the highest revenue in Zoo history
- Ms. Petersen-Amend reported that December was a busy month, attendance, concessions and rentals were below the goal

c. Zoo Director Updates

Zoo Director, Denise Verret gave the following updates:

- Ms. Verret discussed the passing of Shaunzi on December 3rd, noting that the Zoo is focusing on Billy and Tina's well-being and is happy to note they are doing well. The Zoo's Learning and Engagement team attended the 13th Annual Children's Holiday Tennis, Toy & Snow Celebration event at the Jackie Tatum/Harvard Recreation Center in Council District 8 on December 16.
- On January 4th, personnel from LAFD Fire Station 35 came to the Zoo to participate in a site tour of the facility. Station 35 is the local fire station that serves as the back up to the primary responding Station 56 to the Zoo in an emergency.
- The Zoo received media coverage during NFL games on Christmas Eve and Christmas day in clips of holiday scenes from cities and landmarks across the country.
- The Zoo was included in the Los Angeles Times end of year-round up of good news stories from 2023 for the launch of the new Southern California Wildlife Confiscations Network in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) and Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

- Various media outlets such as the LA Daily News, Los Angeles Blade and Discover Los Angeles featured the Zoo's LGBTQIA+ Community Nights, planned in collaboration with the L.A. Pride.

**AGENDA ITEM 6
OLD BUSINESS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 7
ADJOURNMENT**

There being no more business to come before, Commission President Winnick motioned to adjourn the meeting; Vice President Silva so moved and Commissioner Vannatim seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY