



# MINUTES

## BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY MARCH 12, 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  
Daryl Smith  
Elnie Vannatim\*

### VISITORS

None signed in

Karen Bass  
Mayor

### EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

Richard Lichtenstein

Nithya Raman  
Council Member  
4<sup>th</sup> District

### COMMISSION STAFF

Denise Verret  
Cristina Flores

### MEDIA

None signed in

Zoo Commissioners

Karen B. Winnick  
President

### ZOO GENERAL COUNSEL

Brendan Kearns

Bernardo Silva  
Vice President

### AGENDA ITEM 1

Daryl Smith

#### CALL TO ORDER

Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM

Elnie Vannatim

### AGENDA ITEM 2

Richard Lichtenstein  
Ex Officio Member

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF February 20, 2024

Commission President Winnick requested approval of the minutes of the February 20, 2024 meeting. Commission Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Smith seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Denise M. Verret  
Chief Executive Officer  
& Zoo Director

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comments

### NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

No Comments

### AGENDA ITEM 4

#### PRESENTATION – LA ZOO NUTRITION PROGRAM

Emily Schwartz, Zoo Nutritionist mad a presentation on the following:

- Ms. Schwartz discussed the history of Animal nutrition programs, noting that the first known published animal feeding recommendations were in 1899 and consisted of recommendations for feeding chickens, fish, cattle and horses. In the



1960s, the refinement of diets began with increased focus on health, disease resistance and economic efficiency

- Today, there are 21 AZA facilities with 27 nutritionists. Additionally, AZA has an advisory group with resource nutritionists for zoos to use in the management of animals.
- Ms. Swartz highlighted the importance of animal nutrition which included things such as animal health, wellbeing, reproduction, lactation and growth.
- Nutritionists in zoos responsibilities include evaluating diets, commissary management, educating, outreach and research.
- Nutritionists evaluate nutrition needs of individual animals and create recommendations for animals based on the animals' nutritional needs, natural history of the species, history of the individual animal, life stage and feed availability.
- Here at the Los Angeles Zoo, the nutritionist is also responsible for managing distribution of supplies such as cleaning supplies and tools for keepers.
- Ms. Swartz ended her presentation with a summary of future goals for the Nutrition Program, which included a centralized operation to decrease waste and diet drift; an expanded food enrichment program to include carcass feeds; comprehensive feed item analyses and research studies including taste preference trials.

\* Commissioner Vannatim arrived AT 10:14AM.

## **AGENDA ITEM 5**

### **GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

#### **a. Animal Updates**

Director of Animal Programs, Beth Schaefer, provided the following animal updates:

- Oriental white-eye that was here as a result of a confiscation went to Fort Wayne Children's Zoo in Indiana.
- Dwarf reticulated python was donated from Reach Out Reptiles in Saver, Pennsylvania. This snake will fill the exhibit where the Boelen's python was previously exhibited.
- Five Vampire crabs have hatched.
- As of today, the Zoo has 13 condor eggs.

#### **b. GLAZA Updates**

Dawn Petersen-Amend, GLAZA Interim President, provided the following updates:

- The spring campaign has begun. The Event's team has added weekend events through May which is expected to add to attendance and revenue.
- Attendance dropped in January which is expected, but is still slightly above average and admissions revenue is currently 30% above budget as of January 2024.

#### **c. Zoo Director Updates**

Zoo Director, Denise Verret, gave the following updates:

- Family Nature Club in March welcomed 60 participants. Participants were able to create paintings and bug art made with nature materials.

- The Zoo participated for the first time in Chinatown's 46<sup>th</sup> Firecracker Festival. In honor of the year of the dragon participants learned about Komodo Dragons.
- The Zoo's Learning and Engagement team welcomed the participants of the Department of Recreation and Parks, Air, Land and Sea Program from Harvard Park to the Zoo for a tour and a talk about careers in conservation.
- The Zoo hosted LAPD's Northeast and Security Services Divisions to tour and understand the layout of the Zoo to improve and coordinate in the event of an emergency.
- The Cap Vulture project is approximately 85% complete, with a projected completion goal of April 2024.
- Swan Lake started demolition last week and is progressing. This project which will house trumpeter swans is expected to be completed by June 2024.

**AGENDA ITEM 6  
OLD BUSINESS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 7  
ADJOURNMENT**

There being no more business to come before the Commission, President Winnick requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commission Vice President Silva so moved and Commissioner Smith seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 11:14AM.

ATTEST:

  
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PRESIDENT

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY