



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 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 arrived at 10:05
Elnie Vannatim

VISITORS

None signed in

Karen Bass
Mayor

EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

Richard Lichtenstein arrived at 10:05

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

Justin Mikita

Daryl Smith

Elnie Vannatim

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JUNE 18, 2024

Commission President Winnick requested a Motion to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2024 meeting. Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Vannatim seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Richard Lichtenstein
Ex Officio Member

Denise M. Verret
Chief Executive Officer
& Zoo Director

AGENDA ITEM 3

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comments

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

No Comments

AGENDA ITEM 4

PRESENTATION – CHILDREN'S ZOO REIMAGINED

Maura Messerly, Manager of Visitor Engagement gave the following presentation:



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Member of the American
Alliance of Museums

Member of the California Association
of Zoos and Aquariums

- Ms. Messerly, gave a brief history of the Children's Zoo, with its most recent reimagining being in 1999.
- The Children's Zoo will go through several phases of changes, some of which have already taken place, such as Project Pollinator HQ and the Over Under Garden.
- Future Phases will bring the following changes:
 - Caves of California – will be cleaned up and given a new story.
 - Old Pelican Exhibit - will be updated to be an educational display shedding light the Zoo's role in the California Condor Recovery Program
 - Wing Photo-Ops – lifesize condor wings and larger than life bird, bat, butterfly and insect wings will be displayed throughout this area of the Zoo.
 - Bungalows/Nursery – will be cleaned up and have new animal identification signage for species added. This will also be the new home for the axolotl.
 - Muriel's Ranch – plans for new ways to give the goats and sheep a healthy life. Muriel's Ranch will not reopen for the safety of the goats.
 - Adventure Theater – plans for improvements and new programming ideas for visitor engagement.

AGENDA ITEM 5

GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

a. Animal Updates

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

- Sales
 - Pancake Tortoise going to Idaho Falls Zoo as a Species Survival Plan (SSP) recommendation.
 - King Vulture going to a private off-site location in Ventura in order to provide it with a better environment as it ages.
 - Masai giraffe going to Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, Rhode Island as part of an SSP recommendation.
- Births
 - 1 Baby bighorn sheep
 - 4 California condors
 - 1 Southern pudu
- President Winnick requested an update on the Okapi death. Dr. Keller provided the following update:
 - 20.5-year-old female started to have acute changes including nose bleeds and passed away about a month and a half later. She had been tentatively diagnosed by the Zoo's veterinary team with congestive heart failure which is common in Okapis.

b. GLAZA Updates

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

- Nearly \$300,000 were raised for the restricted priorities
- Large gifts this month
 - \$150,000 from an individual for Indian Rhino Substrate
 - Over 82,000 from an individual for the Elephant barn rubber flooring
 - \$25,000 for the Diane and Mark Montgomery Conservation Fellowship
 - \$25,000 for the Montgomery Animal Keeper Advanced Studies Fund

- 25,000 from an individual to be the matching gift at the Beastly Ball for Gorilla Rehabilitation and Conservation Education (G.R.A.C.E.)
 - Membership budget as of April 30th is at 73% of the monthly goal and 76% of the year to date total. Member households increased by 200 households.
 - Attendance for April was 99% of goal with year to date coming in at 11% over projection.
 - Admissions for April was 79% of goal with year to date coming in at 3% over projection.
 - GLAZA revenue to the Zoo was 2% over budget with year to date coming in at 100% of projection.
- c. Zoo Director Updates
- Zoo Director, Denise Verret, gave the following updates:
- The Zoo hosted US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Attorney's Office who wanted to learn more about the Zoo's role in the confiscation process.
 - Learning and Engagement (L&E) team relaunched the Summer partnership with the Los Angeles Public Library, with plans to visit 36 libraries across the City this summer. They have already visited Playa Vista and Lake View Terrace.
 - L&E team attended the International Science & Engineering Fair Education Outreach Day, the worlds largest pre-college STEM event with hundreds of students competing in a science fair. The Zoo gave guests the opportunity to create a contraption and place it in our Condor Vortex.
 - L&E team attended the 6th annual Community Beautification event at Pan Pacific Park hosted by Los Angeles Public Works, Office of Community Beautification and had in depth discussions about how to keep communities beautified as well as the coexistence with local wildlife.
 - L&E team also attended the Tom LaBonge Panorama Community Event at the top of Mt. Hollywood which was attended by the 5th grade class of Ivanhoe Elementary.
 - L&E also attended the LA Pride in the Park event sponsored by Christopher Street West at the Los Angeles State Historic Park.
 - In the News
 - Project Pollinator, Jeannette Marantos of the *LA Times* published a story featured in her plant newsletter and on the newspaper website.
 - Historic Partnership with Rewilding Argentina, the Zoo's Otter Rosario went to Argentina as part of this historic event.

AGENDA ITEM 6
OLD BUSINESS
None

AGENDA ITEM 7
ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business to come before the Zoo Commission, Commission President Winnick requested a Motion to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Smith so moved and Commission Vice President Silva seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 AM.

ATTEST:



PRESIDENT



SECRETARY