



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 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.”

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Karen Bass
Mayor

Nithya Raman
Council Member
4th District

Zoo Commissioners

Karen B. Winnick
President

Bernardo Silva
Vice President

Justin Mikita

Daryl Smith

Elnie Vannatim

Richard Lichtenstein
Ex Officio Member

Denise M. Verret
Chief Executive Officer
& Zoo Director

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Winnick
Bernardo Silva
Daryl Smith
Justin Mikita
Elnie Vannatim arrived at 10:03am

VISITORS

None signed in

EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF

Denise Verret
Cristina Flores

MEDIA

None signed in

ZOO GENERAL COUNSEL

Steve Houchin

AGENDA ITEM 1

CALL TO ORDER

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

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF AUGUST 20, 2024.

Commission President Winnick requested a Motion to approve the minutes of August 20, 2024 meeting. Commission Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Smith seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AGENDA ITEM 3

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comments

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMENTS

No Comments

AGENDA ITEM 4

PRESENTATION – MONTGOMERY ADVANCED FIELD STUDIES GRANT PROGRAM – MACAW RECOVERY NETWORK IN COSTA RICA

Animal Keeper, Rachel Galvan gave the following presentation:



- Ms. Galvan discussed her trip to the Macaw Recovery Network (MRC) in Costa Rica in May 2024, which specifically focused on critically endangered Great Green Macaws and endangered Scarlet Macaws.
- There are no more than 4,000 Scarlet Macaw's and about 500-1,000 Great Green Macaw's in South America. The Recovery Network focuses mainly on breeding and reintroduction of the species back into their native habitat while also monitoring wild breeding.
- While the MRC has various areas of focus, Ms. Galvan visited their breeding center called Punta Islita, which houses over 200 Macaws.
- Ms. Galvan shared her experiences as a volunteer which included food preparation as well as preparation of materials to provide enrichment.
- Ms. Galvan's visit was during chick season and she was able to help with nest checks, check on eggs for incubation progression and monitor after chicks have hatched. Along with checking on the eggs, they check on the chicks that have hatched to ensure their health, as well as banding them to prevent poaching.
- MRC staff intentionally forage and prepare native foods for the birds to be able to prepare them for success when they are released into the wild.
- Ms. Galvan explained that these birds are released in flocks. The MRC staff will take flocks out away from the breeding center to release them in different areas. There are also instances where they do a soft release which is when they open the aviaries and allow the Macaws to slowly explore the wild environment but also allows them to come back to a safe place.

AGENDA ITEM 5

GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

a. Animal Updates

Beth Schaefer, Director of Animal Programs gave the following updates:

- Loans/Sales
 - 0.1 California Condor to San Diego Zoo Safari Park in Escondido, California
 - 1.0 Southern Tamandua is going to Dallas Zoo in Texas on loan as part of a breeding recommendation.
 - 3.0 Bighorn Sheep going to Lee Richardson Zoo in Garden City, Kansas as recommended by the SSP.
 - 1.0 Green Aracari coming from Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, Washington as part of a breeding recommendation.
 - 1.0 Southern three-banded armadillo from Santa Barbara Zoo in California as part of an SSP recommendation.
- Births/Hatchings
 - 0.0.2 Baja rock lizards hatch
 - 0.0.1 Crested Capuchin birth
 - 0.0.6 New Mexico ridge nose rattlesnake births

b. GLAZA Updates

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

- The Advancement team was able to raise the full \$2.2 Million for the Langar Exhibit Renovation. The donation came from an estate gift, given by the son of a docent who volunteered at the Zoo for over 50 years.
- Restricted Gifts Raised:
 - \$8,500 from an individual to support felines at the Zoo.

- Total restricted gifts for July was \$10,500.
 - 485,000 is the approximate remaining restricted funding to be raised this year
 - Membership revenue ended at 88% of budget with member households ending at 38,961.
 - Survey's have been sent out to determine why memberships have been declining and to address any factors within GLAZA's control.
 - Attendance for July was at 101% of budget.
 - Admissions for July came in at 108% of the budget.
 - GLAZA revenue came in at \$137,248
- c. Zoo Director Updates
- Denise Verret, Zoo Director gave the following updates:
- L.A. Zoo hosted Dr. Jamrtin Sihite, CEO of the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation in Indonesia who shared insights with staff and volunteers at the Zoo about the work his organization is doing with Orangutans.
 - Community outreach continued with one of our final events with CicLAVia, debuting our branded bike bells and snap bracelets, while also discussing our conservation efforts focusing on California Condors and Pronghorns.
 - Ongrounds engagement is back which includes a variety of programing throughout the zoo.
 - The Zoo's collaboration with DWP is active again with a fill station offering free recycled water for LA City residents.
 - International Vulture awareness day was not as well attended due to extreme heat; however, Dr. Jake Owens moderated an evening event and it was well attended.
 - Tree Tops Update: BOE will provide a scope based on the assessment that the engineering company did. Once the scope is completed an estimated date will be able to be provided, however it will likely not be ready by the end of the calendar year.
 - In the News
 - International Vulture Awareness Day

AGENDA ITEM 6

OLD BUSINESS

None

AGENDA ITEM 7


CLOSED SESSION

The Zoo Commission recessed into Closed Session, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a) and (d)(1), to confer with its legal counsel relative to the pending case entitled Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust, et al. v. City of Los Angeles, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCP03390. The Commission reconvened in open session and had nothing to report after the Closed Session.


ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business to come before the Commission, President Winnick requested a motion to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Vannatim so moved and Commission Vice President Silva seconded; the motion passed by unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned at 11:13 AM.

ATTEST:



PRESIDENT



SECRETARY