



MINUTES
BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
VIRTUAL MEETING*
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2022, – 10:00 AM

* IN CONFORMITY WITH THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20 (MARCH 17, 2020) AND DUE TO CONCERNS OVER COVID-19, THIS BOARD MEETING WAS HELD ENTIRELY TELEPHONICALLY VIA ZOOM.

“Creating dynamic experiences to connect people and animals”

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Eric Garcetti
 Mayor

Nithya Raman
 Council Member
 4th District

Zoo Commissioners

Karen B. Winnick
President

Bernardo Silva
Vice President

Margot Armbruster

Christopher Hopkins

Daryl Smith

Richard Lichtenstein
ex officio member

Denise M. Verret
 Chief Executive Officer
 & Zoo Director



An Equal
 Employment
 Opportunity
 Employer

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Winnick
 Bernardo Silva
 Margot Armbruster
 Daryl Smith

VISITORS

No response

EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF

Denise Verret
 Denise Tamura

MEDIA

No response

ZOO GENERAL COUNSEL

Steve Houchin

**AGENDA ITEM 1
 CALL TO ORDER**

Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

**AGENDA ITEM 2
 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF AUGUST 16 AND SEPTEMBER 2, 2022**

Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Armbruster seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**AGENDA ITEM 3
 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comments

LOBBYING NOTICE

No Comments

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

No Comments

Accredited by the Association
 of Zoos and Aquariums

Accredited by the American
 Association of Museums

Member of the California
 Association of Zoos and Aquarium

AGENDA ITEM 4

FINDINGS TO CONTINUE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 361 / GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e)(3)

President Winnick asked for a motion to approve findings that virtual meetings are still necessary. Commissioner Smith so moved, Vice President Silva seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

AGENDA ITEM 5

PRESENTATION – CONSERVATION STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Dr. Jake Owens, Director of Conservation, gave an update on the first year of the Zoo's Conservation Strategic Plan (CSP). Updates included:

- First year focused on the CA Conservation and Social Environmental Justice
- Continued to strengthening internal staff/volunteer investment in the Conservation Committee
 - Bette Davis Micro-forest, Restoration of condor trail
 - More active action items for committee members to engage directly in, including Birding 101 and native bird gardens. Working in connection with the AZA's SAFE program for the North American songbird
 - Conservation onboard training for all staff
- The Paid Internship Program (PIP) was expanded from two interns in 2021 to 14 interns in 2022
- Growing partnerships with existing local organizations such as Outward Bound Adventures
- Worked with IUCN to get to the Peninsular Pronghorn to be red listed as Endangered
- Worked with Mexican firm Museografica, on the redesign of the Visitor Center near Guerrero Negro. Plans for a "grand opening" in February 2023
- Updated the Zoo's Conservation Grant Program

Dr. Owens noted a full evaluation report will be shared with staff and Commission soon. Utilizing the logic model and evaluation process there will continue to be updated progress on the CSP.

AGENDA ITEM 6

GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Animal Updates

Beth Schaefer, General Curator, gave the following transaction updates:

- Mountain yellow legged frog tadpoles being sent out to help with the growing collection; Aquarium of the Pacific is now one of our partners on this program
- Blue tongued skink going to San Diego for ambassador program
- Incoming big horn sheep ram as breeding recommendation
- Numerous hatchlings in LAIR

Vice President Silva asked about the passing of the mini horse. Dr. Keller explained she was 35 years old and had a sudden decline. After passing it was found that she had an internal mass that had led to the decline. President Winnick asked about the death of tadpoles and the pronghorn. Dr. Keller stated that tadpoles were normal and that is why they lay thousands of eggs. The pronghorn was four years old and staff are still awaiting final results, but chronic lameness was the contributing factor.

B. GLAZA Update

GLAZA President Tom Jacobson gave the following update:

- Achieved 70% of total restricted fundraising goal for FY 23 mostly from State funding which has also allowed GLAZA to achieve complete funding for the Collier Gardens
- Membership is \$50,000 under goal, but total households is currently over 43,000
- Attendance and revenue are within goal; weather has been a factor for lower numbers
- GLAZA is planning to add Baja to their Travel Program for next year
- Will be launching a new Zoo Lights campaign for the reimagined event this year
- Boo at the Zoo will begin the first weekend of October and run every weekend through the month

Ex-Officio Member Lichtenstein asked if GLAZA is currently marketing and advertising for the Zoo. Mr. Jacobson explained that marketing and advertising will be ramping with the upcoming Boo at the Zoo and Zoo Lights events. Mr. Jacobson noted that since Sponsorship had declined over the pandemic there is minimal funding for general Zoo advertising.

Mr. Lichtenstein asked when GLAZA's next Travel Program trip was planned. Mr. Jacobson stated they had a trip to Africa planned for this November, but they have cancelled the trip due to continued pandemic safety measures.

C. Zoo Director Update

Zoo Director Denise Verret provided the following updates:

- Zoo Camp served 854 students ranging in ages from 5 to 13 years old over the course of eight weeks. One hundred four of those students received scholarships to attend camp
- L&E staff wrapped up "Summer Play LA", a Recreation and Parks program
- Attended the AZA Annual Conference in-person in Baltimore, MD.
 - L&E won a "Significant Achievement Award" for the virtual Zoo Pals Program
 - Director Verret was sworn in as the Vice-Chair Elect for the AZA Board; she will become the Chair in FY 24/25
- DWP Recycled Water fill station has distributed 10,000 gallons of water since it began in August
- The second public meeting for the Zoo's revised Vision Plan EIR was held on September 12. Public comments will be received through September 23, 2022

Mr. Lichtenstein, asked if either Mrs. Verret or Mr. Jacobson could discuss the park ballot measure that will go before voters this November. Mrs. Verret stated that the City has authorized ballot measure SP (safe parks) to be placed on the November ballot; it is a multi-billion dollar park initiative that impacts the entire City including the Zoo. For the measure to pass it requires 66% of the vote. Mr. Jacobson stated he has been selected to work on the campaign for the measure and GLAZA will be providing funding for the campaign. Discussion about providing ballot measure language to all Commissioners and possible future Commission action on the measure.

**AGENDA ITEM 8
OLD BUSINESS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 9
ADJOURNMENT**

There being no more business to come before, President Winnick motioned to adjourn the meeting; Vice President Silva so moved, and Commissioner Smith seconded. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 11:04 AM.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY