



MINUTES

BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

**TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023 – 10:00 AM
IN-PERSON MEETING**

**Los Angeles Zoo
Grand Room
5333 Zoo Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027**

*“Creating
dynamic
experiences
to connect
people and
animals”*

Los Angeles Zoo
5333 Zoo Drive
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COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS WILL BE HEARD ONLY AT THE TIME THE RESPECTIVE ITEM IS CONSIDERED. COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC ON ALL OTHER MATTERS WITHIN THE SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD WILL BE HEARD DURING THE “PUBLIC COMMENTS” PERIOD DESIGNATED ON THIS AGENDA. THE PUBLIC IS REQUESTED TO FILL OUT A SPEAKER CARD TO ADDRESS ANY AGENDA ITEMS.

Note: Sign Language Interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72-hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. For additional information, please contact the Commission office at (323) 644-4218. TDD available at (323) 644-6688.

Karen Bass
Mayor

Nithya Raman
Council Member
4th District

Zoo Commissioners

Karen B. Winnick
President

Bernardo Silva
Vice President

Mark Gonzalez

Daryl Smith

Elnie Vannatim

Richard Lichtenstein
Ex Officio Member

Denise M. Verret
Chief Executive Officer
& Zoo Director

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF February 21, 2023

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are limited to a total of three minutes per person.

No Comments

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMENTS

Discussion with Neighborhood council representatives on Neighborhood Council Resolutions or Community Impact Statements filed with the City Clerk which relate to any agenda item listed or being considered on this agenda.

No Comments

4. PRESENTATION – COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Director of Learning and Engagement discussed present and future community partnerships

- Learning and Engagement falls under the AZA umbrella of Conservation Education to focus on Learning and Engagement’s mission to foster lasting relationships between the community, nature and animals.
- Longest standing partner for the Zoo is the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) which includes:
 - Zoo Pals which brings Title 1 schools to the Zoo for free, including buses.



- LA Zoo Magnet out of North Hollywood High School which has been a partnership with the Zoo since 1981. This year they won the top Magnet School of Excellence for Magnet Schools of America, which is the highest honor for a magnet school.
- LAUSD Migrant Education Program works with migrant worker families to provide support for those students who move and change schools frequently in an effort to prevent them from falling behind. The Zoo has offered a summer program every year since 2018.
- Mr. Keefe provided a summary of various partnerships the Zoo has including the following:
- Nonprofit Organizations
 - Outward Bound Adventure, Plaza de la Raza, Mujeres de la Tierra and the Korean Cultural Center of Los Angeles.
- Los Angeles City Departments
 - Los Angeles Public Library and the Department of Recreation and Parks.

5. GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

a. Animal Updates

Director of Animal Programs, Beth Schaefer, provided Animal Updates.

- Ocelot that came to the Zoo as part of the work we do with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife until it was able to be moved to San Francisco from a facility in Rosemond that was closing.
- Black Duiker (2 Males) will go to a private AZA affiliated facility in Florida. The only other facility with this species to help further the species in North America.
- Brazilian Salmon Tarantulas will now be on display in the LAIR as part of a large confiscation by the US Fish & Wildlife Service
- 19 Condor eggs laid with a total of three hatched so far this year.
- Our young Male Giraffe is in conflict with his father and will be going to the Columbus Zoo and the other young male will be going to Oregon.

b. GLAZA Updates Rob Woolley and Emily Marrin

GLAZA Associate Vice President for Advancement, Rob Woolley and GLAZA Director of Marketing and Communications, Emily Marrin gave the following update:

- Walk for the Wild which was scheduled for February was canceled due to flooding and rain.
- Walk for the Wild Celebration Event will be held in appreciation of the participants who helped GLAZA raise over \$261,000.
- Currently have raised \$650,000 for the Beastly Ball and this year's goal is \$1.3 Million
- Membership is currently over half way past the annual goal
- Through the end of February Attendance is 61% of the annual goal, down 8% attributed to the historic rain and cold weather.
- At the end of February revenue is at 54% of the annual budget
- By the end of March revenue was just 1% under budget and is expected to bounce back completely as the weather improves.
- Revenue from other sources is at 78% and expected to meet the annual goal.
- Paid media campaign has been launched in anticipation of good weather.

c. Zoo Director Updates

- March 3, 2023 Not A Pet Campaign kicked off in celebration of World Wildlife Day in collaboration with AZA, Wildlife Trafficking Alliance and International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). An initiative aimed to educate the public on illegal pet trade of exotic wildlife.
- The Zoo participated in Earth Hour to bring awareness to energy conservation
- LA Zoo Teen Council for Conservation is 30 young people from all of the council districts of Los Angeles. The Council recently was hosted by the Catalina Island Conservancy providing and many of them the opportunity to visit the island for the first time they were able to see dolphins, bison and a Bald Eagle
- The Los Angeles Zoo, in partnership with the Southern Sierra Research Station in Pasadena, has been able to install the first Motus Wildlife Tracking System in the Los Angeles area led by Dr. Jake Owens. This tracking system will collect data and help track and learn more about birds and their migration patterns which will help with the conservation of various species.
- The Zoo was able to be an LAUSD resource in support of the LAUSD Strike by providing community Safari Days programming and free admission to students and reduced pricing for accompanying adults.
- Learning and Engagement Outreach Team attended a variety of community events including Lincoln Heights Youth Arts Center's Grand Re-Opening Celebration, Valley CicLAvia, Spring Fest L.A., Maker Faire at Grand Avenue Park, Blessing of the Animals at Olvera Street and Various Library Fleet Team events.
- Vision Plan is nearing its final publication and the Zoo hopes it will get to City Council by June.
- President Winnick suggested getting some of the stories of trafficked animals into the media, newspapers, etc.

6. OLD BUSINESS

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business to come before, President Winnick motioned to adjourn the meeting; Vice President Silva so moved, and Commissioner Armbruster seconded. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM