MEMBERS PRESENT
Karen Winnick
Daryl Smith
Bernardo Silva
Margot Armbruster

MEMBERS ABSENT
Christopher Hopkins

EX OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT
Richard Lichtenstein

COMMISSION STAFF
Denise Verret
Denise Tamura
Lisa Gerencser

ZOO GENERAL COUNSEL
Steve Houchin

AGENDA ITEM 1
CALL TO ORDER
Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2
APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF APRIL 20, 2021
Commission President Winnick moved to approve April 20, 2021 minutes. Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Armbruster seconded, and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 3
GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT
No Comments

LOBBYING NOTICE
No Comments

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
No Comments

* 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.
AGENDA ITEM 4
ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT PRESENTATION

Zoo Director Denise Verret introduced Adam Fowler and Mazen Bou Zeineddine from Beacon Economics to discuss the Los Angeles Zoo’s Economic Impact Report. Beacon Economics was commissioned in 2019 to complete an Economic Impact Report utilizing data from fiscal year 2018/19. The report was completed in 2020, but due to the pandemic and economic recovery it was decided to hold the report until now as it highlights the Zoo’s impact on regional economics.

Mr. Fowler discussed the Zoo’s regional impact on economics as well as social impacts. Highlights of this report include:

- Review of Key External drivers
- The Zoo’s support of suppliers and buyers
- Expenditures – Zoo operations, Capital expenditures, Employee compensation, Concessions and Visitor spending.
  - FY 18/19 visitor spending totaled $53 million
- Direct/Indirect Economic Impacts, Induced Impacts, and Social Spillover
- Region reviewed included Southern California, LA County, and LA City
  - Zoo contribution to LA City - $80.3 million Output Impact, 752 Employment Impact, $33.4 million Labor Income, and $1.6 million in tax revenue
  - Zoo contribution to LA County - $144 million, 1,273, $58.3 million, and $4 million in tax revenue
  - Zoo contribution to So Cal - $199.1 million, 1,741, $76.9 million, and $5.5 million in tax revenue
- The Zoo plays a major role in Learning and Community Engagement not just locally, but globally

Both Mr. Fowler and Mr. Zeineddine expressed the importance of this report and the need for the Zoo to share and inform a wider audience of it’s impacts. President Winnick asked how the Zoo plans to utilize the report. Director Verret noted it will be shared with all local and state elected officials. GLAZA President Tom Jacobson noted they are utilizing the report to assist in grant writing.

AGENDA ITEM 5
GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Animal Updates

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

- Birth of female Speke’s gazelle
- Exchanging female blue-eyed black lemurs with Duke Lemur Center
- Brush tailed bettong going to Assiniboine Park Zoo in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
- Three African pygmy falcons have fledged and can be seen on exhibit
- Eight additional California condors have hatched with a few still in incubation

Vice President Silva asked about the death of the squirrel monkey. Dr. Stadler explained he was in his late 20s and they believe he may have suffered a stroke; health continued to decline.
B. GLAZA Update
GLAZA President Tom Jacobson gave the following update:
- Reached 65% of restricted fundraising goal for the year
- Membership is up to 36,000 households; 70% of goal
- Have already solicited $720,000 for Beastly Ball
- Beastly Ball honorees are Jackie Chan and Leila George
- May 21 – Walk for the Wild – have raised $100,000
- GLAZA in discussion with the City on how to proceed with Zoo Lights while the operating agreement is being negotiated

C. Zoo Director Update
Zoo Director Denise Verret reported that with Los Angeles County in the “Yellow Tier” Zoo capacity has increased to 60%. Additional experiences such as the Aviary and Playpark have been opened. Other areas such as LAIR and the Carousel will be opening based on operating and resource needs. Zoo Camp sold out in one day and will begin on June 21. The City budget for FY 21/22 will be heard by Council this Thursday; the Zoo had lost 18 positions in the proposed budget, but through the BFC were able to have those positions restored without funding. Mrs. Verret is hopeful the entire Council will agree with the recommendation; next month the City budget will be presented to this Commission.

Vice President Silva asked about COVID relief funds. Mrs. Verret noted the Zoo applied for $10 million through the SBA Shuttered Venue grant.

AGENDA ITEM 6
OLD BUSINESS
None

AGENDA ITEM
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; the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 AM.

ATTEST:

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PRESIDENT                                                              SECRETARY