MEMBERS PRESENT
Karen Winnick
Daryl Smith
Christopher Hopkins
Margot Armbruster

VISITORS
No response

MEMBERS ABSENT
Bernardo Silva

EX OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT
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 MAY 18, 2021
Commission President Winnick moved to approve May 18, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Armbruster so moved, Commissioner Smith seconded, and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 3
GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT
No Comments

LOBBYING NOTICE
No Comments

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
No Comments

“Creating dynamic experiences to connect people and animals”
AGENDA ITEM 4
LOS ANGELES ZOO VISION PLAN – FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION
Zoo Director Denise Verret, introduced Norman Mundy, Environmental Specialist from the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) to discuss the final EIR for the Zoo's Vision Plan. The Zoo's Vision Plan was completed in 2018 and the EIR process began in 2019. Mr. Mundy reviewed the EIR process with the Board and explained that this would be implemented in phases. Phases 1-3 being short term (completion 5-10 years) and Phases 4-7 being long term (completion in 20 years). Discussion ensued about various environmental impacts and mitigating factors of those impacts. The Zoo is seeking a letter of support from the Board of Zoo Commissioners to be transmitted to the City Council before this item appears before them this summer.

President Winnick asked for a motion to approve a letter of support. Commissioner Smith so moved, and Commissioner Hopkins seconded; motion passed.

President Winnick asked for a vote on the letter of support. All members in attendance indicated an “Aye” response and the letter will be provided.

AGENDA ITEM 5
2021/22 CITY BUDGET PRESENTATION
Assistant General Manager Mei Kwan provided a presentation on the Zoo’s fiscal year 2021/22 adopted budget. The City requires budget requests to be submitted in November of the prior fiscal year – these requests were prepared in November 2020 with the following assumptions:

- Continued pandemic operations
- 50% limited visitor capacity
- Limited guest experiences and programming

Ms. Kwan discussed historical attendance and revenue. Projected to end fiscal year 2020/21 with 600,000 visitors and $8 million in revenue. The projections for fiscal year 2021/22 are 900,000 visitors and $11 million in revenue.

The total adopted budget is just under $24.9 million; this includes $11 million from the General Fund – first time in five years the Zoo has needed this funding source. The adopted budget supports salaries for 264 full time and 100 part time staff, animal welfare and health, and general zoo operations. It was recommended that the Zoo have 24 positions eliminated due to the City’s Separation Incentive Program (SIP), but the Zoo was able to retain the positions without funding. Also, received $2 million in Capital Improvements to add Wi-Fi connectivity throughout the Zoo. The Zoo will prioritize hiring for best overall operations. Also prioritizing ways to regain self-supporting budget.

President Winnick asked about current visitor capacity. Ms. Kwan explained that as of today, June 15, the State and County have removed most safety protocols and provisions including capacity limits for businesses. The Zoo will keep timed ticketed entry through the end of June. Beginning July 1, reservations for General Admission will be available based on day not time and there will be reservations required for Members.
AGENDA ITEM 6
GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS
A. Animal Updates
Beth Schaefer, Director of Animal Programs, gave the following transaction updates:
- Red-flanked duiker going to Miller Park
- Male and female cape vultures going to Living Desert as a breeding pair
- Speke’s gazelle was born
- Mangrove pit viper had 7 offspring
- All California condor chicks have hatched

President Winnick asked about the death of a California condor. Dr. Dominique Keller, Chief Veterinarian, explained he was brought in from the field with high level of lead toxicity and was unable to be saved; he was 16.

B. GLAZA Update
GLAZA President Tom Jacobson gave the following update:
- Reached 72% of restricted fundraising goal for the year
- Membership is up to over 36,000 households
- Attendance for April and May were good with over 100,000 visitors in April.
- Sponsorship activation will begin in July
- Walk for the Wild raised $158,000
- Beastly Ball was held on June 5th and raised $1 million dollars; event has been viewed by over 20,000 people and all auction items have been sold.

C. Zoo Director Update
Zoo Director Denise Verret noted that the Papiano Play Park and LAIR have already reopened to the public. We anticipate opening the Contact Yard next week and the Carousel in July. Next month the Zoo will host a virtual launch of its Conservation Strategic Plan.

AGENDA ITEM 7
OLD BUSINESS
None

AGENDA ITEM 8
ADJOURNMENT
There being no more business to come before, President Winnick motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Hopkins so moved and Commissioner Armbruster seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 11:07 AM.

ATTEST:

_______________________________  ______________________________
PRESIDENT                                                              SECRETARY