AGENDA ITEM 1  
CALL TO ORDER  
Commission President Winnick called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2  
APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF AUGUST 17, 2021  
Commission President Winnick moved to approve August 17, 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
AGENDA ITEM 4
PRESENTATION – Los Angeles Zoo Equity Programs
Director of Equity Programs, Jess Kohring, gave an overview of her experience and the new Equity Programs Division.
- Mrs. Kohring started at the Zoo in 2011 in the Learning and Engagement Division
- In July of 2020 by order of Mayor’s Directive, the Zoo created the Equity Programs Division and was appointed Director of the Division by Denise Verret
- Discussed the meaning and importance of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Accessibility (DEIBA)
- Completed an internal Inclusion and Belonging survey in 2020 and just finished the assessment for 2021
- Staff trainings included
  - Kulture City – Autism and sensory awareness
  - Easter Seals – in-depth overview of sensory issues and Autism spectrum
  - Kaleidoscope – LGBTQIA+ understanding
  - Implicit Bias – City of LA training
- Community Conservation paid internship with LA Promise Works
- Discussion about AZA DEAI being included as part of accreditation and other organizations within the Zoo and Aquarium industry
- Will continue with paid internships
- Will be focused on structures and current systems in place
- Continuing staff training and education
- Hired a Curator of Equity Initiatives to assist with outreach

Commissioner Smith and Vice President Silva thanked Mrs. Kohring for the important work she is doing.

AGENDA ITEM 5
PRESENTATION - Migrant Education Program & The L.A. Zoo
Coral Barreiro, Curator of Education, discussed the Migrant Education Program (MEP).
- The program started in the late 90s by LAUSD and has included the LA Zoo since its inception
- The program is designed for 3-21 year olds who are children of migrant workers
- Children of migrant workers have a high school graduation rate of 40-60%; students who participate in MEP have a 90% graduation rate.
- In 2020 MEP was available only virtually due to the pandemic
- This past summer the Zoo partnered with Malabar Elementary in Boyle Heights; 10 students participated in this year’s program.
  - Students created science/art projects
  - Spent days completing observations and nature journaling
  - Hiked the Condor Trail
  - Worked with Keepers (animal close ups)
Ms. Barreiro discussed the factors that make this program such a success. They include:
- Great collaboration between the City/LAUSD/LAZ
- Thoughtful and thorough communication between the Zoo, LAUSD, and program participants
- Children seeing representation of people of color working in various roles
- Unwavering passion from teachers and Zoo staff to make the program a success for each of its participants

Discussion about following up with students and how the Zoo can facilitate better transportation.
AGENDA ITEM 6
GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

A. Animal Updates
Candace Sclimenti, Curator of Mammals, gave the following transaction updates:
● Outgoing Congo peacocks as SSP recommendation
● Pair of pygmy falcons to Bronx Zoo
● Births include:
  ○ Five Mangshan pit vipers
  ○ McCord’s snake-neck turtle

Vice President Silva asked about the death of a meerkat. Dr. Keller noted the animal was older, 16, and was suffering from a neurological disorder. Initially the animal responded well but took a turn for the worse and was euthanized due to poor quality of life.

B. GLAZA Update
GLAZA President Tom Jacobson gave the following update:
● Achieved 13% of total restricted fundraising goal for the year
● Received $20,000 for the Collier Gardens and anticipate receiving the remaining $2 million to complete the gardens
● Membership is up to over 37,000 households
● Attendance for July and August were strong and back to “normal” summer numbers
● GLAZA is hosting events again including the Sustainable Wine Dinner series, Biodiversity Days, and in October the return of “Boo at the Zoo”
● Announced GLAZA is seeking candidates to fill Genie Vasels position once she retires next month
● GLAZA sent a letter to the Zoo Director and City Attorney on August 17 regarding the City and Zoo Director’s unreasonable requests and delayed responses as it relates to “Zoo Lights”

Ex-officio Member Lichtenstein asked completing visitor surveys again. Kait Hilliard responded that during the pandemic the surveys were changed to be relative to guest’s safety. The questions are being revised and visitors will be surveyed again in the future.

C. Zoo Director Update
Zoo Director Denise Verret noted the Zoo continues to support LAFD mobile vaccination and testing by being a weekend site; to date 1600 people have been tested and 200 have received vaccines.

Mrs. Verret noted that she found Tom Jacobson’s comments related to “Zoo Lights” to be unprofessional and this meeting is not the forum for this matter. Mr. Lichtenstein stated a public discussion needs to take place related to the overall relationship between the Zoo and GLAZA

Zoo Commissioners voted unanimously to add “Zoo Lights” discussion to the October agenda.
AGENDA ITEM 8
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 11:08 AM.

ATTEST:

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PRESIDENT                                                              SECRETARY