MINUTES
BOARD OF ZOO COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
VIRTUAL MEETING*
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 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"

Los Angeles Zoo
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Los Angeles
California 90027
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http://www.lazoo.org

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

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

AGENDA ITEM 2
APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETINGS OF NOVEMBER 16, 2021, DECEMBER 15, 2021, AND DECEMBER 21, 2021
Commission President Winnick moved to approve the minutes of the past three meetings. Commission 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
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. Vice President Silva so moved, Commissioner Armbruster seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

AGENDA ITEM 5
BAJA PENINSULAR PRONGHORN PRESENTATION
Beth Schaefer, Director of Animal Programs, Dr. Dominique Keller, Director of Animal Health, and Mark Linggi, Animal Keeper presented the Commission with their observations from their November 2021 trip to Baja California where they participated in collaring and releasing Peninsular Pronghorn (Berrendos). Presentation discussed:

- Los Angeles Zoo (LAZ) has been involved with the Peninsular Pronghorn Recovery Project (PPRP) since 2000
- When the program started there were an estimated 50 pronghorn in the wild; there are now approximately 650 in the wild and captivity
- LAZ became a quarantine facility for imported animals in 2011. The quarantine for this species requires a year long process
- In 2020 LAZ co-hosted a workshop that led to the Species Action Plan for pronghorns
- In 2021 LAZ was able to work with IUCN to have the species separated from a larger group and assign them as “Endangered”
- In the three days in Baja, they participated in the collaring and releasing of seven pronghorns
- This experience demonstrated to staff the importance of zoos and their roles in continued species conservation
- Visitor Center in Guerro Negro is anticipated to open in February 2022

AGENDA ITEM 6
GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS
A. Animal Updates
Beth Schaefer, Director of Animal Programs, gave the following transaction updates:

- Several outgoing animal transactions that the Zoo owns, but are housed at other facilities include Southern White Rhino, Pudu, Wattled Crane
- Births include:
  - Giant horned lizard

Discussion about the still born orangutan birth.

B. GLAZA Update
GLAZA President Tom Jacobson gave the following update:

- Achieved 117% of total restricted fundraising goal for the year
- Membership is up to over 37,000 households
- Attendance and revenue continue to do well above projections
- GLAZA has hired a VP of Advancement and she will begin in March
- Funding for Collier Gardens is at 80% of goal
- GLAZA and the Zoo hosted a media event on January 17th in honor of what would have been Betty White’s 100th birthday
C. Zoo Director Update
Zoo Director Denise Verret provided the following updates:
  ● During the current COVID surge, the Zoo has capped its attendance and reinstated reservations for the health and safety of the animals, staff and visitors
  ● Since reopening in February 2021, the Zoo has had over one million visitors
  ● Learning and Engagement staff continue to provide virtual programming for students
  ● Engaging community groups in discussions related to the Vision Plan; EIR has not been scheduled for Council Committee

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; Vice President Silva so moved, and Commissioner Smith seconded. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 AM.

ATTEST:

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PRESIDENT                                                              SECRETARY