Committee Members Present:

Maria Cardenas, Office of City Administrative Officer (CAO), Chair
Gerry Miller, Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA)
Deanna Gomez, Mayor’s Office
John Lewis, Los Angeles Zoo

Others Present:

Tricia Carey, CLA; Claudia Aguilar, CAO; Renee Weitzer, Council District 4; Jeb Bonner, Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association (GLAZA); Jim Bickhart, Mayor’s Office; Lisa Beal, Jessica Frederick, Public; John Olinger, John Reamer, Public Works Bureau of Contract Administration (BCA); Rebecca Abano, Gary Moore, Brad Smith, Public Works Bureau of Engineering (BOE); Kyla May, Darryl Pon, Denise Verret, Los Angeles Zoo.

Ms. Maria Cardenas called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

1. Minutes for Approval – Meeting of May 31, 2007

Mr. John Lewis moved to approve the Zoo Bond Oversight Committee (ZBOC) special meeting minutes of May 31, 2007. Mr. Gerry Miller seconded and the motion passed without objection.

2. Bureau of Engineering Program Manager Status Report

Ms. Rebecca Abano reported on the progress of the Zoo’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Master Program Budget

At last month’s meeting, the Committee approved the Revised Program Budget that moved funds and created a program contingency; to date no changes have been made to the newly approved program budget.

Master Program Schedule

No changes have been made to the Master Program Schedule.
Status of Active Projects

Of the five final non-infrastructure active projects, three are in design and two are in construction.

Projects in Design

Pachyderm Forest

Design development is complete. Last month, the Committee approved changes made to the scope of Phase Two. Phase Two includes completing a portion of Yard Two, the China Viewing Area and related small animal exhibits, providing a temporary elephant shelter, and installing a new main transformer, currently located in the existing elephant barn.

BOE has met with the General Services Department (GSD), drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and prepared a cost estimate for GSD for this work. The MOU's purpose is to spearhead the costing, since it takes GSD a while to develop a Class A estimate. Portico prepared an estimate, which was reviewed and revised by Psomas; all GSD has to do is validate this estimate for the scope of work. GSD is anticipated to start work in August 2007.

Ms. Cardenas asked Mr. Lewis if the Zoo has a status on the temporary elephant shelter and if it had been approved. Mr. Lewis replied the shelter would be built according to specifications and guidelines. Ms. Cardenas asked if the American Zoo Association would approve or allow a temporary shelter. Mr. Lewis answered that the issue is meeting the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) standards, which are reviewed and interpreted to meet those requirements prior to building all Zoo exhibits.

Rainforest of the Americas

Ms. Abano reported that Portico Group has made progress in the redesign of the project to meet the budget. The redesign period has taken up some of the project’s schedule float, but has not delayed its end date. The design is anticipated to be complete in September 2010.

Reptile and Insect Interpretative Center

The Reptile and Insect Interpretative Center is in the design development phase. A successful workshop was held earlier in the month. As previously reported, this project is on the Mayor's list for the Greening of L.A., and the building shall have a green roof. As suggested by Mr. Chris Espinosa last month, BOE has applied for DWP funding for this roof. The application request was submitted for $300K. Ms. Cardenas asked what DWP’s timeline was for response. Ms. Abano replied DWP has not yet responded; the forms are going through their review process, to determine if the project qualifies. Timelines have not yet been discussed.
Projects in Construction

Gorilla Exhibit Project

Construction is 85% complete. The visitor pathway construction is in progress. Landscape planting continues. Completion of caging is in progress, and finish painting of doors and rockwork is ongoing. Construction is ahead of schedule and completion is anticipated in August 2007.

Last month, Ms. Abano discussed Change Order 8, a very large change order which is now in process and making its way through the Board of Public Works (BPW).

BOE also prepared Amendment 2, which was approved by BPW on May 30, 2007, and was referred to the Arts, Parks, Health, and Aging Committee. Mr. Gary Moore asked if BOE could help with the amendment’s urgency. Ms. Abano replied that the amendment was moving. Ms. Tricia Carey stated that the next Arts, Parks, Health, and Aging Committee meeting is on July 11, 2007; she will send an email.

The Golden Monkey Exhibit

The Golden Monkey Exhibit is 60% complete and GSD is making excellent progress. Caging is in fabrication and completion is anticipated in January 2008.

BOE has a Board report to increase the project’s GSD funding, as discussed last month; this is in process.

Zoo Infrastructure

Two new infrastructure projects are both transformer replacements at the Zoo. An Interdepartmental Order (IDO) and Notice to Proceed (NTP) were issued to DWP for the work related to transformer TS-14, which supplies power to the Golden Monkey Exhibit and the Pachyderm Forest Phase Two’s small animal exhibits. An NTP was issued in the amount of $204K, which was the Class A estimate for the transformer. DWP has started procurement for the transformer. DWP originally told Ms. Abano that it would take twenty weeks to do the whole project.

Also, DWP will do a second site visit next week, to prepare a Class A estimate for replacing the main transformer, which is the other infrastructure project. This transformer will replace the existing transformer currently located in the elephant barn.

Ms. Cardenas asked what the cost estimates are. Ms. Abano replied that Psomas prepared a rough order of magnitude for Transformer 14 of $350K, and the main transformer TS-1A ran about $750K. Ms. Cardenas asked if this was within the budget. Ms. Abano replied yes, it is all within the infrastructure budget. Mr. Moore asked for confirmation that DWP’s estimate for the Pachyderm Forest project has not yet been received. Ms. Abano confirmed this.
Ms. Cardenas asked if the Pachyderm Forest one was paid for out of its budget. Ms. Abano replied that both would be paid for out of the infrastructure budget.

Mr. Miller asked what the Golden Monkey status was with China. Mr. Lewis replied that the Zoo is working on correspondence to start again with the Chinese to determine their response. If a favorable response is not received, then diplomatic means will be reviewed.

Ms. Abano concluded her oral report.


Mr. Jeb Bonner reported that since the last Committee meeting, GLAZA has raised $111,325; one of those gifts was a $100K gift. This brings GLAZA’s fundraising commitment to less than $1M.

The Committee briefly discussed a property auction sale that is to go before the Council for authorization.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Ms. Abano presented a photo slide show of the projects’ progress.

Next Meeting

Ms. Cardenas stated the next meeting is anticipated to be August 30, 2007.

Ms. Cardenas adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Ms. Kyla May of the Los Angeles Zoo’s Planning and Development Division. Reviewed by BOE, CLA, CAO and the Zoo.