Committee Members Present:

William T Fujioka, City Administrative Officer (CAO), Chair
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA)
Chris Espinosa, Mayor’s Office
John Lewis, Los Angeles Zoo

Others Present:

Tricia Carey, CLA; Claudia Esparza, Ellen Sandt, CAO; Jeb Bonner, Connie Morgan, Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association (GLAZA); Catherine Doyle, Public; Rebecca Abano, Gary Moore, Brad Smith, Public Works Bureau of Engineering (BOE); Kyla May, Darryl Pon, Los Angeles Zoo.

Mr. William Fujioka called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

1. Minutes for Approval – Special Meeting of September 21, 2006

Mr. John Lewis moved to approve the Zoo Bond Oversight Committee (ZBOC) special meeting minutes of September 21, 2006. Ms. Sharon Tso 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). Overall, the CIP is progressing remarkably. Of the final five active projects, three are in design and two are in construction. There are no changes to the master program budget and schedule. As of the end of September 2006, $83.6M has been expended of the $169M CIP budget. A detailed cost report is in Section Three of the BOE Monthly Report.

Projects in Design

Rainforest of the Americas and Reptile and Insect Interpretative Center

The Rainforest of the Americas and Reptile and Insect Interpretative Center are in the design/programming phase; the architect is Portico Group, who is finalizing the design program. Portico has also started initial schematic design drawings on both projects. Overall design is anticipated to be complete by the end of September 2007.
Pachyderm Forest

The exhibit expansion design is in progress and is progressing somewhat slowly. The architect has been put on notice, but the project is not behind schedule at this time. Ms. Abano has personally spoken to the head architect, Mr. Chuck Mayes, who reassured her that he is mobilizing his team and the project will be put back on track. Mr. Fujioka asked BOE to do whatever is necessary to impress upon Portico that the Pachyderm Forest project is an absolute priority.

Ms. Abano reported that BOE continues to prepare for general construction with the help of the General Services Department (GSD). GSD is currently performing preliminary construction and demolition, which constitute Phase One of the project. GSD is 80% complete in transforming the old animal hospital into a temporary reptile holding facility; only the reptile caging is left to be completed. The caging has been ordered and its delivery is anticipated in January 2007. Mr. Fujioka asked if this facility will be to house the reptiles or show them; Mr. Lewis replied to house them.

Projects in Construction

The Golden Monkey Exhibit

The Golden Monkey Exhibit is in construction. The Board of Public Works (BPW) awarded the project in July 2006. At the last meeting, the Committee gave BOE approval to issue a Notice to Proceed (NTP) to GSD; BOE issued the NTP the same day. Since then, GSD has coordinated with BOE, the Zoo and the architect, and submitted mobilization plans for construction. The architect attended a meeting on October 12, 2006 to help jumpstart construction.

Gorilla Exhibit Project

The construction is progressing as expected and is 40% complete. Current activities include shotcrete, rebar, and formation of the holding building’s floors and walls.

Ms. Abano presented a slide show of the progress of the Pachyderm Forest Phase One. GSD’s first step is to create a temporary reptile facility, by converting the old animal hospital. The floors have been redone, walls fixed, an emergency eyewash facility installed, and cabinets repaired and repainted with new countertops provided. Mr. Fujioka asked what the facility would be used for after; Mr. Lewis replied for various support offices and laboratories. Ms. Abano noted that carpeting had been provided in another room, and shelving repaired and repainted. Another room has been converted to a room that can retain water. Additionally, the air conditioning system was repaired, so the room temperature can be set depending on the reptiles’ needs.

Ms. Abano displayed the exhibit plan for the Gorilla Exhibit project, which will include two exhibit areas, one large area for a family group and one smaller area for the male ‘bachelor’ gorillas. Behind the exhibit will be the holding building.
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The exhibit will have two visitor paths: the main thoroughfare and an immersion path through the exhibit with landscaping and a close-up view of the gorillas. Ms. Abano continued to describe photos of the project’s progress.

**Status of Project Management/Construction Management (PM/CM) Contract**

BOE is still processing the new PM/CM contract. It is waiting to be scheduled for the BPW.

Referring to a recent Los Angeles Times article, Mr. Chris Espinosa requested that the Zoo move on the contingency plan for the Golden Monkey Exhibit. Mr. Lewis responded that, given the exhibit’s construction schedule, the Zoo still believes the Chinese government will release the golden monkeys. Mr. Espinosa stressed that the exhibit have a dual purpose. Mr. Lewis noted the exhibit will be functional for other Zoo primates or other Asian primate species. Mr. Fujioka explained that this has previously been discussed at length to ensure the exhibit can accommodate other primate species.

3. **Zoo Department Report on the Status of Obtaining Golden Monkeys**

This agenda item was discussed during Agenda Item Two.

4. **Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association (GLAZA) to Report on Capital Improvement Project Fundraising Activities.**

Ms. Connie Morgan reported on GLAZA gifts for the Pachyderm Forest: a $75K corporate gift that will likely be doubled, a $50K individual gift, a $25K foundation gift, and another $7K individual gift. Mr. Fujioka asked if these gifts were expected, or above and beyond. Ms. Morgan replied the gifts were within the $4.5M GLAZA commitment to the Pachyderm Forest. Mr. Fujioka thanked Ms. Morgan for GLAZA’s contributions.

**Next Meeting: November 16, 2006**

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

Mr. Fujioka adjourned the meeting at 10:27 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.