



**CONSERVATION  
SOCIETY OF  
CALIFORNIA**  
TAKING ACTION FOR WILDLIFE

**Conservation Society of California Oakland Zoo  
Annual Membership Meeting  
Wednesday, January 18, 2023  
6:00 to 7:30pm  
Virtual via Zoom webinar**

**Arrival and Welcome:**

**Dennis De Domenico**

Welcome to our Annual Membership meeting. Whether you are a staff member, donor, docent, volunteer, or community member you are dear to our hearts. Thank you for your support and your enthusiastic commitment to the zoo. We appreciate you joining us virtually tonight allowing us to accommodate a much larger group than if we all met in person. I am Dennis DeDomenico, Co-chair of the Board of Trustees. Co-Chair Nancy Clark will be my co-host during tonight's meeting.

We have a great agenda tonight but first there will be several governance items to take care of including your approval of last year's minutes, the approval of our amended and restated Articles of Incorporation, the approval of a slate of five new trustees, the approval of six trustees who are beginning their second terms, and the recognition of four trustees who have finished their terms.

Our Chief Executive Officer Nik Dehejia will give his annual state of the zoo report. Lisa O'Dwyer will be recognizing our Docents and volunteers, and Nancy Clark will then close the meeting. So, without further ado the Annual Membership Meeting of the Conservation Society of California is hereby called to order.

**Approval of the January 19, 2022 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes:**

**Dennis DeDomenico**

The first order of business is to approve the minutes from our last Annual Membership Meeting on January 19, 2022.

The link to the Minutes was provided ahead of the meeting, in accordance with the Brown Act. The link to the Minutes can also be found via the question & answer on this webinar.

Dennis DeDomenico hereby moved to approve the Minutes of the January 19, 2022 meeting, via public poll. Nancy Clark seconded the motion.

The Annual Membership Meeting Minutes dated January 19, 2022 were approved by a vote of 100 for, 0 against, and 7 abstentions.

**Opportunity for Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

The members must also approve amendments to the Articles of Incorporation. On July 16, 2023, the Board of Trustees passed a resolution approving the amended restated articles, that were published on the zoo's website along with the notice of the annual meeting and passed a resolution to submit the amended and restated articles of incorporation to the membership for approval. The Articles were amended to conform the Articles to the California Secretary of State's request that the Articles specifically include the text that the corporation elects to be governed by all the provisions of the new Californian non-profit corporations' law not otherwise applicable to it under part 5 of division two of Title 1 of the California corporation's code. Therefore, the Board of Trustees hereby moves the adoption via public poll of the following resolution by the conservation society's membership. Resolved that the amended and restated Articles of Incorporation of the Conservation Society approved by the trustees at their July 16, 2022 meeting and as set forth on the zoo's website with the notice of the annual meeting of members are hereby approved by the membership. Nancy Clark seconded the motion.

The Membership approved the resolution amending and restating the Conservation Society's Articles of Incorporation by a vote of 99 for, 0 against, and 10 abstentions.

**Slate of the new trustees:**

**Nancy Clark / Cindy Stoddard**

Michael Bruck  
Jeffrey Marshall  
Shana Simmons  
Amy Tharpe Peterson  
Jan Stevens

Nancy Clark motioned for an approval for the slate of new trustees. Dennis DeDomenico seconded the motion for the approval of the new trustees.

The Slate of New Trustees was approved by the Membership by a vote of 103 for, 0 against, and 8 abstentions.

**Slate of Trustees who have fulfilled their first term and who have agreed to fulfill a second term. Each term is 3 years.**

Marv Friedman  
Elogeanne O. Matson Grossman  
Cathy Langridge  
Liz Ludwig  
Patrick Sherwood  
Cindy Stoddard

Nancy Clark motioned for an approval for the slate of second term trustees. Dennis DeDomenico seconded motion for the second term trustees.

The Slate of Renewing Trustees was approved by the Membership by a vote of 105 for, 0 against, and 8 abstentions.

Nancy Clark recognized trustees who have completed their terms. Michael Bruck – Docent Representative will now continue as a regular trustee.

Jessica Huard has been instrumental in our Marketing area as has Lea Van Ness been instrumental in our Education area. Thank you to Jen Fall who has assisted in the Financial and Audit areas. Farewell and thank you to our departing trustees.

Nancy Clark introduced Chief Executive Officer Nik Dehejia. Nik Dehejia was promoted to CEO almost two years ago.

#### **State of the Zoo:**

**Nik Dehejia**

Thank you to all of you who are joining us tonight. It has been an incredible year at the zoo we have done so many amazing things. Our excellence in animal welfare and care, our launch into climate resiliency, conservation impact and the people who work at the zoo.

Nik thanked both Nancy and Dennis as departing co-chairs of the board. It takes a lot of people behind the scenes to run and guide this institution. Nik deeply thanked Nancy and Dennis and the entire board of trustees who have been with us during this chaotic year.

Thank you to the Oakland Zoo Leadership team who combined have more than 120 years of service between them. What makes the Oakland Zoo work is that there are nearly three hundred full time/part time/seasonal staff that create the incredible experience for guests from the moment someone purchases a ticket on the website to arriving at the zoo and experiencing what we have to offer.

We recently took the opportunity to appreciate and recognize our staff at all staff celebrations at the Chabot Space and Science Center. We just finished celebrating one hundred years in the city of Oakland. We had a celebration at Snow Park where we received a key to the City of Oakland. Thank you to Dr. Parrott who has guided and been a mentor for me. It has been an incredible 2022 and we are so proud of what the zoo has gone through in the last one hundred years.

**Our Animal Care and Welfare:** In Oakland, the Black Crowned Night Heron is our city bird. We launched a program to rescue over 140 fledglings that were falling out of the trees in downtown Oakland. We brought them to Oakland Zoo and then transported them to our partners at the International Bird Rescue who treated and then released them. The Heron Rescue Project reiterates that our conservation and welfare work starts at home.

**Mtn Lions:** Four Mtn. Lions through no fault of their own were abandoned and brought to the Oakland Zoo Veterinary Hospital by the Department of California Fish and Wildlife. Holly and Hazel Mtn. Lions are currently being treated and cared for in our veterinary hospital. Over the last several years we have rescued over 20 Mtn. Lions. Sadly, most of these animals cannot go back into the wild. So, we must rehabilitate them and find them a home.

**CA Condors:** We have treated 18 California Condors at Oakland Zoo. We continue to do that work with a new partner at the Redwood National Forest up in Northern California with the Indigenous community of the Yurok tribe. This work is so important as we are often the last lifeline for these birds that continue to suffer from lead toxicity. Our Animal Care and Veterinary Care teams work hand in hand with partners across the state. This year going forward we will host a field biology meeting for one hundred members who continue to save this species.

**Riparian Brush Rabbits:** Riparian Brush Rabbits are a species in California that is on the verge of extinction. We have inoculated one thousand Riparian Brush Rabbits out in the field this year.

**Native Yellow Legged Frogs:** We have an on-site facility where we head start Native Yellow Legged Frogs and then release them out into the wild.

**Gray Wolves:** We continue to collaborate with our partners and the role that we can play in bringing Gray Wolves back to California.

On The National Level, this year President Biden signed the Big Cat Safety Act making it law where big cats were used for entertainment can no longer be used in this way. We are so thankful to so many who fought for this to happen. Tigers Mia and Lola were a direct result of this having come from a facility in Oklahoma where they lived in cages for a number of years. We had the opportunity to collaborate with our partners in the sanctuary world to rescue four tigers, two of which came to Oakland Zoo where they are thriving.

The American Bison: We have this incredible partnership that started with Dr. Joel Parrot and the Black Feet Nation in Montana which enabled us to be part of this incredible story and help to bring this species back from the brink of extinction. Eight bison were born at Oakland Zoo in 2022., thirteen of which were returned to the Black Feet Nation in Montana.

What an honor to have Dr. Jane Goodall at the zoo. Dr. Goodall came back to the zoo after last being here 20 years ago. Dr. Jane has a love for chimpanzees, and she made a special visit to see the chimpanzees at Oakland Zoo. Dr. Jane spoke to so many children from the City of Oakland. We are deeply touched that she recognized Oakland Zoo as an important player in the conservation world.

We launched a California Climate learning project. Thank you to the Oakland Zoo Education leaders who worked with OUSD (Oakland Unified School District) teachers to co-create materials and curriculum so that they could use them in classes with their students. We need to take a leadership position on climate resiliency as it takes on so many different shapes and forms. We also developed a Conservation Internship program that we ran during the Summer.

What a wonderful opportunity the zoo provides for ZooCampers. We offer scholarships where youth engage in action.

Thank you to our Teen Wild Guides and Teachers.

What we are doing on site: We have a new aviary that is being created for our flamingos at Oakland Zoo. We are in the final stages of this construction. We want our flamingoes and other species to be free flighted. Thank you to our Docent and volunteer community who stepped up to surpass our goal and raised more than \$109K for this project. Thank you for making this happen.

Emma and Lucha our Jaguars: We were fortunate to have a match and Emma is now on site where they continue to get associated with one another. Emma and Lucha are part of the Species Survival Plan for Oakland Zoos and zoos across the country.

Trading Card Program: The Trading Card Program features photos of our Oakland Zoo animals; this program has taken off and the cards highlight the different animal species at the zoo. It becomes an engaging and fun way to interact with our community at the zoo.

Events at the zoo: We continue to coordinate our events in a fun and engaging way. Boo at the Zoo our Halloween event continues to be successful with guests engaging in a scavenger hunt and stations throughout the zoo. Thank you to all those who came out to celebrate Boo at the Zoo.

Glowfari is now in our third year. The community bring friends and family from out of town to enjoy this event and we are working at bringing this event back in February this year.

The community goes beyond the zoo. It is about adults engaging in the Healthy Living Festival. For over 20 years we have been collaborating with Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley and the United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County to bring this event to the zoo.

Oakland Turkey Trot: We had the opportunity to be one of the sponsors of this event and engage with over three thousand people at this event.

We continued our off-site lecture series with our conservation partners where we spoke about Climate Stewardship at Brooklyn Basin with a number of our partners.

Our Global conservation efforts: One of many examples where we are collaborating with our partners in Uganda to protect African Lions. We are also working with the New Nature Foundation to create a rocket stove that impacts the community so that they do not cut down the trees. This is just one small example of the work that we do overseas.

Investing in our future: Thank you for one hundred years in the City of Oakland. As we look ahead we want to thank the community for voting "Yes" on Measure Y for Oakland Zoo. There is more to be done in terms of our wildlife rescue work. With Measure Y we will have the opportunity to engage even more with the community. How do we provide more opportunities to bring more children to the zoo? Access in the community – this is about reaching those who cannot afford to come to the zoo. An important project going forward is the rollout of a program that offers a 25% discount for all Oaklanders.

Nik handed over to Cindy Stoddard, Co-chair who thanked Nancy Clark for inviting her to participate in many wonderful events at the zoo. Cindy also thanked the volunteers at Oakland Zoo for their service and the time that they take from their personal lives to donate to the animals and guests.

Cindy Stoddard then introduced Lisa O'Dwyer - Volunteer Services Director and the Interim Director of Education. Lisa has worked for the zoo for over 16 years and Lisa and her team manage the volunteers at the zoo.

Lisa O'Dwyer shared some of the Volunteer Service highlights from the year.

#### **Year-Round Volunteers:**

Year-round Volunteers:	662
Total Volunteer Hours:	70,298

Full-Time Equivalent:	Thirty-three
Estimated Cost Savings to the Zoo:	\$1.1 million

**Community Volunteer Groups:**

Total number of Volunteer Groups:	55
Total number of volunteers;	1226
Total Number of Hours:	3725
Estimated Cost Savings to the Zoo:	\$89,394

**Veterinary Hospital Tours:**

Seventy-six tours given.  
525 participants  
Revenue: \$11,220

**Docent Class of 2020 - First Year All Stars:**

Lori Allison, Lesley Alred, Rick Barth, Jane Briton, Jennifer Chambers, Rachel Ginsburg, Laura Goldman, Joyce Hicks, Oscar Hill, Paul Hill, Steve Kaminski, Anna-Marie Nilsson, Jill Riter, Cathy Sherrer, Scott Ullman, and Christine Wilder-Abrams

**Volunteer Recognition and Awards****October 1, 2021 September 30, 2022**

Volunteer of the year:	Christina Gingrich – ACCR Volunteer
Docent of the year:	Guy Vinson

**Closing remarks:****Nancy Clark**

This year has been an epic 100<sup>th</sup> celebration year. We have rescued and cared for so many animals, conducted so many events and we nearly reached one hundred million guests at the zoo. More importantly an opportunity for us to engage visitors in wildlife. Thank you for spreading the word. Thank you to our members and donors for your donations and for continuing your membership and for passing Measure Y. We have great confidence that the zoo will continue for many more generations.

All of us are stewards for the zoo's future. In 1922 Henry and Sidney Snow publicly committed to protecting endangered species, building awareness, and supporting wildlife. Our focus has stayed true to those goals. Fortunately, in one hundred years we can expand our commitment and our impact to rescue, conduct research, provide care, and proactively advocate for wildlife. To engage and educate children and adults about animals and conservation provides greater access for all.

On behalf of my Co-Chairs Cindy Stoddard and Dennis DeDomenico and the entire Board of Trustees we thank you! We are so fortunate to have the best and most dedicated staff, members, donors, volunteers, trustees, and a large caring community, Thank you.

Nancy Clark officially adjourned the meeting at 6:57pm