

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

**DATE:** April 16, 2020

**TO:** County Board Chairperson

**FROM:** Charles Wikenhauser, Zoo Director

**SUBJECT:** Approval to Enter into an Agreement with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee for the Development of a Design for a New Rhinoceros Exhibit for the Milwaukee County Zoo.

ISSUE

Approval is requested to enter into an agreement with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County (Society) for the purpose of developing a new rhinoceros exhibit for the Milwaukee County Zoo.

BACKGROUND

The Zoo's Pachyderm Complex was built in the early 1960's. It is home to hippopotamus and rhinoceros and contains the former elephant exhibit. These are some of the oldest exhibits on Zoo grounds and most in need of renovation. The Zoo's 2013 master plan, developed in cooperation with the Zoological Society, addressed the need to comply with the new accreditation standards in an exhibit complex called Adventure Africa. Adventure Africa Phase I featured a new elephant exhibit and opened in May, 2019. Phase II featuring hippopotamus with underwater viewing will open in June, 2020.

The County and Society now wish to develop a new rhinoceros exhibit. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between Milwaukee County and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County, the County and Society agree to enter into individual project agreements for all Zoo capital projects. The agreement has been reviewed by the Comptroller's Office, Corporation Counsel and Risk Management offices. The agreement addresses source of funds, contract documents, consultant selection process, and project management.

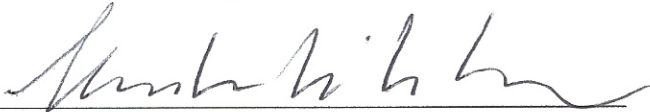
Total funding for the development of the new Rhinoceros Exhibit Design is estimated at \$902,100. This design development will be a joint effort amongst County Facilities, Zoo and Zoological Society staff and will include an exhibit, indoor viewing area and upgraded holding facilities.

The 2020 Capital Budget includes \$902,100 to develop the design. Financing is provided from \$451,050 in general obligation bonds and \$451,050 from the Society. The cost for the Rhinoceros Exhibit Design Project will be shared equally between the County and the Society.

RECOMMENDATION

Zoo staff recommends that the proposed agreement with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County for the development of a rhinoceros exhibit design be approved.

In closing, if virtual meetings continue, please add Chuck Wikenhauser and Vera Westphal to the virtual meeting invites.



Charles Wikenhauser  
Zoo Director

pc: Kelly Bablitch, County Board Chief of Staff  
Steve Cady, Comptroller's Office, Research & Policy Director  
Janelle Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager  
Shanin Brown, Committee Coordinator  
Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator  
Vera Westphal, Deputy Zoo Director (Admin./Finance/Operations)