

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: 9/29/2021

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Amos Morris, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Zoo

Subject: From the Zoo Director Requesting 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

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Milwaukee County Zoo requests approval to enter into an agreement with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (Society) for the development of a design for a new rhinoceros exhibit.

POLICY

Wisconsin State Statutes:	
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	
Specific Adopted Budget:	
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	2020 Capital Budget – Project WZ141 Adventure Africa – Rhinos

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 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 opened on June 13, 2020.

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

The design development will be a joint effort amongst DAS-Facilities Management, Zoo and Society staff and will include an exhibit, indoor viewing area and upgraded holding facilities.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

- 1C: Increase the number of County contracts awarded to minority and women-owned businesses.
- 3A: Invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities by cultivating a wholesome recreational environment for the Citizens of Milwaukee County.
- 3B: Enhance the County’s fiscal health and sustainability.

FISCAL EFFECT

The 2020 Capital Budget includes \$902,100 to develop a new Rhinoceros Exhibit 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.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Amos Morris, Executive Zoo Director will present, but please also include Vera Westphal, Deputy Zoo Director. Email addresses as follows:
Amos.Morris@milwaukeecountywigov; Vera.Westphal@milwaukeecountywi.gov

PREPARED BY:

Vera Westphal, Deputy Zoo Director

APPROVED BY:

Amos Morris, Executive Zoo Director *Amos D Morris, Jr.*

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution, Fiscal Note, Draft Agreement

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk
David Crowley, County Executive
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive
Scott Manske, Comptroller
Aaron Hertzberg, Director, Department of Administrative Services
Joseph Lamers, Director of Performance, Strategy & Budget
Michelle Nate, Deputy Comptroller
Steve Cady, Research and Policy Director, Comptroller’s Office
Emily Petersen, Research Analyst, Comptroller’s Office
Anthony Rux, Budget and Management Analyst, DAS-PSB
Vera Westphal, Deputy Zoo Director
Gary Lunsford, Director, Animal Management and Health
Ben Mattson, Interim Director, Grounds, Maintenance, EVS