

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: 12/7/2023

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

From: Amos Morris, Executive Zoo Director, Zoological Department

Subject: From the Executive Zoo Director submitting the Milwaukee County Zoo's 2013 Master Plan, 2024 Association of Accreditation Standards, and 2024 Master Plan update

File Type: Informational Report

Please find attached a copy of the 2013 Milwaukee County Zoo Master Plan, as requested, and the 2024 Association of Zoos and Aquariums Standards for accreditation. Our updated version of the 2013 Master Plan has not been completed to date. We are finalizing it now and hope to present it in 2024. Once finalized and approved by County Executive Crowley, I would love the opportunity to present the updated master plan to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.

Our updated Master Plan is being done in conjunction with a Strategic and Business Plan as an enterprise-wide initiative with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. The process started at the beginning of 2023 and will be completed in 2024. After 10 years from the last master plan, I felt a refresh was warranted to make sure we are addressing current facility needs and to keep the Zoo relevant within the zoological and local community for the next five to seven years.

Adventure Africa includes Rhino, African antelope, hippo, and elephant. The 2013 Master Plan also included the west entry, river outer exhibit, Sea lion facilities, Humboldt penguin exhibit, and front entrance. The updated Master Plan reviewed the 2013 Master Plan, grounds, facilities, updated strategic plan, and staffing interests to put together the update version of the Master Plan. It is being completed by SH|R Studios who specializes in zoo architecture.

Since we have new or somewhat newly elected County Board Supervisors, I would like to take this opportunity to speak regarding our AZA accreditation. AZA's rigorous, scientifically based and publicly available standards examine the zoo or aquarium's entire operation, including animal welfare, veterinary care, conservation, education, guest services, physical facilities, safety, staffing, finance, and governing body. AZA standards are performance-based to allow them to be applied to a variety of different situations and cases. I'm happy to submit the current standards for board review. Within the standards, section 6 is specific to the Governing Authority. I have been an accreditation inspector for 20 years and I have been a member of the accreditation

commission for the last five years, the last year serving as the vice chair of the commission. Milwaukee County Zoo was one of the early adopters of the accreditation process now accrediting 237 members institutions.

I'm in the process of putting together the Zoo's reaccreditation materials. This application is due at the end of February 2024, which includes two to three hundred documents to review. AZA reaccreditation happens every five years and we will be inspected in the summer of 2024 with the AZA commission board hearing in the fall 2024. Our intentions are to finalize the master plan following the AZA accreditation submission.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

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PREPARED BY:

Amos Morris, Executive Zoo Director

APPROVED BY:

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

ATTACHMENTS: MCZ 2013 Master Plan (PDF), MCZ 2013 Master Plan Appendices (PDF), 2024 AZA Accreditation Standards (PDF)

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
Steve Cady, Research and Policy Director, Comptroller's Office
Ciara Miller, Research Analyst, Comptroller's Office
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Vera Westphal, Deputy Zoo Director
Laura Pedriani, Director, Marketing and Communications
Matthew Haseman, Director, Grounds, Maintenance and EVS
Andrew Stockel, Director, Operations
Kari Williams, Interim Director Animal Management & Health