

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE : November 9, 2018

TO : Milwaukee County Board Chairman Theodore Lipscomb Sr.

FROM : Charles Wikenhauser, Director, Zoological Department

SUBJECT : Approval to Enter into an Agreement with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County for the Construction of a New Hippo 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 constructing a new hippo exhibit at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Background

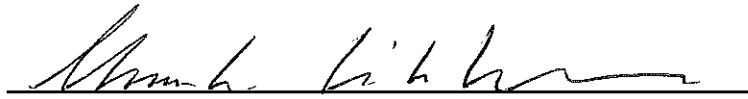
The Milwaukee County Zoo has exhibited hippos since its opening at the present location in the early 1960s. While the Zoological Society provided funds for renovations to the interior holding space in 2009, nothing materially has been done to the exterior since then. The exhibit now does not meet modern zoological practices for the exhibition of hippos. Along with the interior holding alterations, the Society also funded the design of a new exterior exhibit including an elaborate filtration system that would allow the exhibit to include an underwater viewing feature. Although the Zoo's 1997 masterplan included a renovated hippo exhibit, funding for the project was not found. The Zoo's present master plan completed in 2013 included a new hippo exhibit as one of three phases of a new Adventure Africa complex. The first phase which included a new elephant exhibit will open in May, 2019. Funding for Phase II – Hippo Exhibit is included in the Zoo's adopted 2019 Capital Budget. Of the \$13,435,936 total project cost, the Society will provide \$9,106,579 and the County will provide \$4,329,357. The construction would begin in 2019 with the exhibit opening in May, 2020.

In accordance with the 2014 adopted 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 Corporation Counsel, Risk Management, Comptroller and CBDP offices. The agreement addresses source of funds, contract documents, contractor selection process, and project management.

Total funding for the construction of the new Hippo Exhibit will be \$13,435,936. The 2019 Capital Budget includes \$13,435,936 for construction. Financing is provided from \$4,329,357 in general obligation bonds and \$9,106,579 from the Society.

Recommendation

Zoo staff recommends that the proposed agreement with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County for the construction of a new hippo exhibit be approved.



Charles Wikenhauser
Director, Zoological Department

pc:

County Executive Chris Abele
James Schmitt, Chair, Committee on Finance and Audit
Teig Whaley-Smith, Director, Department of Administrative Services
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive
Scott Manske, Comptroller
Supv. Jason Haas, Chair, Parks, Energy and Environmental Committee
Supv. Sheldon Wasserman, Vice-Chair, Parks, Energy and Environmental
Committee
Supv. Willie Johnson Jr., Vice-Chair, Finance and Audit Committee
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Greg High, Director, Architecture & Engineering
Justin Rodriguez, Budget and Management Coordinator, Comptroller's
Office
Shanin Brown Finance and Audit Committee Coordinator
Kelsey Evans, Parks, Energy and Environment Committee Coordinator
Jeremy Lucas, Budget and Management Analyst, DAS
Vera Westphal, Deputy Zoo Director (Administration/Finance/Operations)
Jodi Gibson, President/CEO, Zoological Society of Milwaukee County