



GIANT PANDA ACQUISITION TASK FORCE

2010-02-25

3:30 p.m.

**Toronto Zoo Boardroom
361A Old Finch Avenue
Scarborough, Ontario**

MINUTES

Present: Dr. M. Cheung (Chair), Councillor R. Cho, G. Chong, M. Chong, S. Chong, S. Curtis, P. Evans, R. Hale, G. Li, J. Man, Dr. W. Rapley, M. Rowswell, S. Wong, S. Young

Attendance was admended under confirmation of the minutes of the meeting 2010-03-25 that M. Roswell should have been recorded under Regrets.

Regrets: Councillor G. Mammoliti, C. Yelle

1. Introduction of Members of the Task Force

The Committee was introduced by Dr. Ming-Tat Cheung, Chair.

2. Welcome from the Chairman of the Board

Councillor Raymond, Chair, Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo welcomed the community members.

3. Background information on Panda Acquisition Project

A Feasibility study for the Giant Pandas was prepared in 2004 as part of the Capital Works planning process.

The Board of Management (BOM), at its meeting 2009-10-02 directed that Toronto Zoo staff organize a delegation to visit China to reaffirm China's commitment to provide the Toronto Zoo with a pair of giant pandas.

As a result of the visit to China, the BOM, at its meeting 2009-12-10, appointed a Task Force, to be chaired by Dr. Ming-Tat Cheung, and comprised of members of the Board of Management, the Fundraising and Sponsorship Committee, Chinese Community Leaders, Federal Members of Parliament, and a member of the community, to develop a detailed proposal to obtain Giant Pandas. The Zoo was also directed to explore a national partnership to secure Giant Pandas with the Calgary Zoo and potentially other interested AZA accredited institutions.

P. Evans advised that the Giant Panda Acquisition Task Force is a subcommittee of the Board of Management established for the purpose of planning for the panda acquisition and making recommendations to the Board for approval.

The Zoo is currently working on a tripartite agreement with the Calgary and Granby zoos to share in the loan of the giant pandas.

4. Construction Plan

W. Rapley gave a presentation of the delegation trip to China. Toronto Zoo staff, within a three week period, will complete a proposal on the construction and projected budget for use to lobby Prime Minister Harper to make the request to the President of China for the loan of pandas to the Toronto Zoo.

R. Hale advised that the Zoo is working with Balind Architect Inc. the author of the 2004 Feasibility Study, to revamp the plan within the \$20M capital forecast. A draft of the updated Feasibility Study will be available later in March.

5. Government Liaison

M. Chong agreed to rally other ministers to take the proposal to the Prime Minister in person once the construction and budget proposal along with the tripartite plan is complete.

6. Fundraising Objectives

Deferred.

7. Private-Public Partnership

The Committee discussed the option to pursue partnerships as a way to fund the cost of the Giant pandas. This option will form part of the fundraising objectives.

8. Private Consultant

It was agreed that it is not necessary to engage lobbyists as the Chair is confident with representation of committee members.

9. Conclusion

The Committee members are supportive of the project. The next agenda to include Terms of Reference and Fundraising objectives.

10. Next meeting date

2010-03-22
1:00 p.m.

Adjourned: 5:40 p.m.