TORONTO Member Motion

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM26.28	ACTION			Ward:All

Newly Issued Request for Expression of Interest for the Toronto Zoo - by Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti

**** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.***
**** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral.***
**** This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.***

Communication MM26.28.1 has been submitted on this Item

Recommendations

Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager to cancel the newly issued REOI Request for Expressions of Interest for Toronto Zoo options (REOI # 9101-12-7119).

2. City Council direct the City Manager, in conjunction with members of the Toronto Zoo Board of Management, to fully explore and consider the recommendations within the report, headed "The Future of Toronto Zoo Governance" being cognizant of the City's financial position and Council direction from the Core Service Review and report to Executive Committee meeting in February, 2013.

Summary

On September the 5, 2012, the Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo endorsed a report entitled The Future of Toronto Zoo Governance - a plan that was formulated over a 6 month period and one that incorporated the ideas and input from an informal working group comprised of all levels of government, the TRCA and the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus. The plan includes a “best practice” financial formula which is used by 76% of Zoos in North America and addresses most of the stated objectives within the newly issued REOI.

The REOI outlines a timetable that will not draw the process to a close until the first quarter of 2013, a timeline which will have a substantial negative financial impact on the Toronto Zoo. Uncertainty regarding the future of the Toronto Zoo has considerable costs and ramifications of which, Toronto City Council should be aware, including: In a letter dated October 1, 2012, the City Manager’s Office was informed that at Authority Meeting #7/12, of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) held on September 28, 2012, Resolution #A156/12 in regard to the Toronto Zoo was approved as follows:

"THAT Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) request the City of Toronto to not proceed with the REOI for the Toronto Zoo

AND FURTHER THAT the correspondence (The Future of Toronto Zoo Governance Report) be referred to the TRCA Executive Committee for consideration."

The Toronto Zoo wants to ensure an environment that is optimized to fully leverage the Giant Panda Exhibit in the spring of 2013.

With the continued disinterest in corporate sponsorship opportunities due to management and operational uncertainty, the disruption of negotiations, including Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with known partners stakeholders and other levels of government, the negative impact on morale for Zoo employees and patrons and the potential disruption of reapplication for AZA accreditation - March 2013, it is essential to cancel the newly issued REOI Request for Expressions of Interest for Toronto Zoo options (REOI # 9101-12-7119).

This Motion is urgent as the REOI has already been issued and Council needs to make a decision on next steps for the Toronto Zoo as soon as possible.

(Submitted to City Council on October 2 and 3, 2012, as MM26.28)

Communications (City Council)

(October 3, 2012) Submission from Councillor Lindsay Luby (MM.New.MM26.28.1)