

**City Council****Notice of Motion**

MM21.14	ACTION			Ward:13
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**License Agreement with The Friends of High Park Zoo - by Councillor Sarah Doucette, seconded by Councillor Joe Cressy**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Parks and the Environment Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

**Recommendations**

Councillor Sarah Doucette, seconded by Councillor Joe Cressy, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to enter into five-year License Agreement with the Friends of High Park Zoo, with an option to renew the agreement for a further five years, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the City Solicitor.

**Summary**

The Friends of High Park Zoo was formed in 2012 to raise the funds necessary for the Zoo to remain open in the wake of the City of Toronto's budget cuts. Since the City restored operating funding to the Zoo in 2014, Friends of High Park Zoo and the City of Toronto have developed a strong partnership to ensure the Zoo is sustainable. Friends of High Park Zoo provide the fundraising, programming and support necessary to enhance and sustain the Zoo.

Founded in 1893, High Park Zoo is the oldest zoo in Canada. For over 120 years, the Zoo has been an important heritage facility and staple in the High Park and Toronto community. As an entirely free, public transit-accessible and barrier-free facility, the Zoo provides a space for all Toronto families to interact with nature and a representation of animals from all continents. Drawing over 700,000 visitors each year, the Zoo has seen an increase in attendance of 37 percent in 2015, demonstrating the value it offers to the residents and visitors of Toronto.

The Friends of High Park Zoo Master Plan has been developed in an open and consultative public process which is critical for the future of the Zoo. They are looking to repair and upgrade key heritage structures to improve the quality of life of the animals, better facilitate the interaction between visitors and the animals and implement necessary accessibility infrastructure. This includes the Zoo's widely acclaimed peacock and capybara residents. The implementation of the Master Plan will also help make the Zoo green and reduce its carbon footprint (by adding additional trees and passive storm water management attributes) while providing technology-enabled interactive exhibits and further educational opportunities, one of

which will highlight the contributions of its original First Nations' inhabitants.

By extending the already existing lease agreement (which was approved by Council in 2014) this Motion will allow the Friends of High Park Zoo to raise funding and manage their capital investment in this project through design, construction and completion.

**Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM21.14