

## **Update on Toronto Zoo Tripartite Agreement**

**Date:** February 8, 2018  
**To:** Executive Committee  
**From:** City Manager  
**Wards:** All

### **SUMMARY**

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This report provides an update on a new Tripartite Agreement between the City of Toronto, Toronto Zoo and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). The Tripartite Agreement grants permission for the Zoo to use lands for its operations, portions of which are owned by either the City or TRCA. The Toronto Zoo Board of Management approved the updated Tripartite Agreement at its October 25, 2017 meeting, and requested it be forwarded by the City Manager to Executive Committee for consideration.

In 2013, City Council recommended a review of the existing 1978 Tripartite Agreement to better support the ongoing and future needs of the Zoo, the City and TRCA. City Council subsequently authorized the City to enter into a new Tripartite Agreement as a condition of a 2014 Memorandum of Agreement between Parks Canada, the TRCA and regional municipalities to assemble and transfer lands required to create the Rouge National Urban Park (RNUP).

The Zoo's 2015-2020 Strategic Plan and 2016 Master Plan advance its objectives of good governance, wildlife conservation activities and collaboration to support the RNUP. The proposed new Tripartite Agreement advances these objectives through boundary changes that will better support the Zoo's current and future operations and the continued establishment of the RNUP.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The City Manager recommends that Executive Committee receive the attached Toronto Zoo Board of Management report for information.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There are no financial implications resulting from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

The Acting Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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The Toronto Zoo Board of Management, at its October 25, 2017 meeting, adopted the attached October 12, 2017 report from its Chief Executive Officer that included recommendations to authorize the Zoo to enter into a new Tripartite Agreement, and to transmit the report to the City Manager for onward transmittal to Executive Committee for consideration.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.ZB17.1>

At its February 19 and 20, 2014 meeting, City Council authorized the City to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with Parks Canada, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and various municipalities and related agreements with the Zoo, TRCA and/or Parks Canada, as applicable, to enable the transfer of lands between the parties to support the establishment of the Rouge National Urban Park. Council authorization included entering into a Tripartite Agreement that confirms the revised boundaries of the lands upon which the Zoo are located, prior to TRCA transferring any lands to Parks Canada.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.EX38.4>

On October 8, 9, 10 and 11, 2013, City Council authorized the City Manager, with appropriate City Officials and the Chief Executive Officer of the Toronto Zoo, to finalize the terms and report back to City Council on a revised Tripartite Agreement between Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, City of Toronto and Zoo.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.EX34.7>

## **COMMENTS**

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### **Toronto Zoo Governance**

The Toronto Zoo was established November 1970 through agreement between the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (MTRCA) and the Metropolitan Toronto Zoological Society. The MTRCA retained ownership of much of the Zoo lands, as well as authority for flood control and erosion mitigation under a previous agreement.

The Toronto Zoological Society operated the Zoo from 1974 until 1977, when the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto established a Board of Management to operate the Zoo as a corporation without share capital. Under a 1978 Tripartite Agreement between Metropolitan Toronto, the MTRCA and the Zoo Board of Management, the portion of the Zoo lands owned by the conservation authority - now known as Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) - is licensed by TRCA to the Zoo for its use. The Zoo currently operates on 287 hectares (710 acres) of land, of which the City owns 44.1 hectares (109 acres) and TRCA owns the balance. The Toronto Zoo Board of Management was continued as a local board under the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*.

Following the 2011 Core Service Review, in 2013 City Council reviewed Zoo Board governance and made recommendations to affirm its relationship with the City and to strengthen its financial sustainability, wildlife conservation programs and partnership capacity. Council's recommendations included revising the 1978 Tripartite Agreement, to confirm the boundaries of the Zoo lands and support the establishment of the new Rouge National Urban Park (RNUP).

The Zoo's 2015-2020 Strategic Plan and 2016 Master Plan responded to Council's recommendations and position the Zoo to advance its objectives of good governance and evolution as a conservation centre of excellence and marquee attraction. The Strategic and Master Plans also serve to support the partnerships and opportunities created by the Zoo's proximity to the RNUP.

## **Updated Tripartite Agreement**

At its October 25, 2017 meeting, the Toronto Zoo Board of Management adopted the new Tripartite Agreement, which will replace the 1978 Tripartite Agreement. The new agreement revises the Zoo boundaries through a land transfer between the Zoo and TRCA. The Zoo will relinquish rights to certain TRCA lands that are of no operational value to the Zoo, and gain new lands north of Old Finch Avenue to support its current and future operations. Following the October 2017 meeting, the Zoo, TRCA and Parks Canada agreed to additional language in the Agreement that requires the Zoo to consult with Parks Canada during the development of any proposed facilities on the lands located north of Old Finch Avenue, to further ensure compatibility with conservation objectives.

City Council has authorized the City to enter into this new Tripartite Agreement. The Toronto Zoo Board has also forwarded its report and recommendation to TRCA for consideration and approval.

Once the Tripartite Agreement is signed by all parties, TRCA can transfer these non-operational Zoo lands to Parks Canada for the RNUP, which will enhance their conservation and educational value as part of the trail and interpretive assets of the park. TRCA will retain responsibility for flood mitigation and erosion control of the watercourses near the Zoo, under a 1961 agreement that remains in place.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Peter Wallace  
City Manager

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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October 12, 2017 report entitled "Tripartite Agreement" from the Chief Executive Officer,  
Toronto Zoo