



October 22, 2019

Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West,  
Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2

Dear Members of the Executive Committee

On behalf of Friends of High Park Zoo (FHPZ), I am writing to express our full support for the report from the City Manager item EX9.4 Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure Stream.

FHPZ was formed in 2012 when High Park Zoo was removed from the City of Toronto's operating budget. In November 2013, FHPZ provided City Council with a petition of over 40,000 signatures requesting the City reinstate funding to the Zoo as of January 1, 2014. FHPZ had also raised \$342,000, which was given to the City to cover the Zoo's operating costs for the period of July 2012 to December 31, 2013.

Since its formation, Friends of High Park Zoo has raised over \$1M thanks to the generosity of foundations, organizations and residents across the city - in fact from around the world. Over the past two years we have spent \$250,000 on the Phase 2 soft costs of our Master Plan for improvements, including drawings, arborist, storm water and geo engineering reports. The Recreational Trail and Accessibility Improvement project is now at 100% design and we are shovel ready.

Phase 1 of the Master Plan is a new building, Honey's Home, to house the llamas and capybaras. The soft costs on this project have been \$40,000, paid for with funds raised by FHPZ. FHPZ raised an additional \$120,000, which has been allocated towards construction costs. We have worked closely with city staff throughout the design process and now have the permits required to begin building. Construction is planned to start in the spring of 2020.

Friends of High Park Zoo is committing to contribute a further \$50,000 toward the application for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program to be used for The Recreational Trail and Accessibility Improvement project. We understand that none of the soft costs spent to-date can be applied towards the contributions for this application.

Please let us know if we can answer any questions to help with the application.

Best regards,

Sarah Doucette  
Friends of High Park Zoo