

Sorry I could not stay to speak in favour of this report

EX9.4.2

Executive Committee meeting Wednesday, October 23, 2019 EX 9.4

As you will have read in the letter sent to each of your offices FHPZ was formed in 2012 when High Park Zoo was removed from the City of Toronto's operating budget. The Friends raised \$342,000 to cover the operations until funding was restored in January 2014.

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, which is supported by City staff, is now at 100% design and we are shovel ready!

The Friends are also working on, Honey's Home, a building to replace the one that is there now this for the llamas and capybaras. The soft costs alone are around \$40,000 which have already been paid by the Friends plus we are contributed an additional \$120,000 towards the construction costs. We plan on getting shovels in the ground in Spring 2020.

So so far the Friends have spent over \$800,000 on covering the operations from 2012-2014, \$290,000 on soft costs, \$120,000 for capital funding and another \$50,000 is being contributed towards the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. All from donations to enhance the High Park Zoo experience and make it more educational and accessible for the over 600,000 visitors a year and the animals.

- ① (Photo Mayor) Each year the Friends raise around \$60,000 through activities like opening the llama pen to the public on weekends and stat holidays from April until the end of October.
- ② (Photos) This year Matti joined us and installed, then played his Tree Harp in the shade of one of our beautiful trees.
- ③ We organized a Chalk Art Competition with 9 artists, thanks to Street Art for your support.

- ④ We hosted Grandparents Day with activities for families and celebrated our four generations of llamas including our newest baby Stardust who is Honey's granddaughter.
- ⑤ We've had spinning demonstrations by the staff from Colborne Lodge using the fleece from our own llamas
- ⑥ We held our first ZooBoo last weekend where hundreds of families came and enjoyed the free pumpkin games, crafts, fire truck, police car and a bouncy corn maze to name a few activities.
- ⑦ We also had a bison run in the Scotiabank Marathon while the Friends hosted the cheering centre for the fifth consecutive year.

As you can hear Friends of High Park Zoo are a very active group of volunteers who are passionate about the zoo and we look forward to completing the construction of the recreational trail through the zoo and improving the accessibility for everyone.

In closing I would like to mention that the Friends work closely with the Nature Centre who call the Forest School home. This is where we hold our monthly board meetings and our AGM. We are very proud of the partnerships that the Forest School and we have with the City and would like to thank staff, particularly Doug Bennet, for all of their on going guidance and support.

We look forward to being able to complete these two major projects in High Park that have been underway for many years. They will benefit the millions of visitors from across Toronto and the GTA as High Park is a destination park.

Sarah Douette

[Signature]



EDWARDS
SPORT

RUSTY

ANGELIQUE

2



3

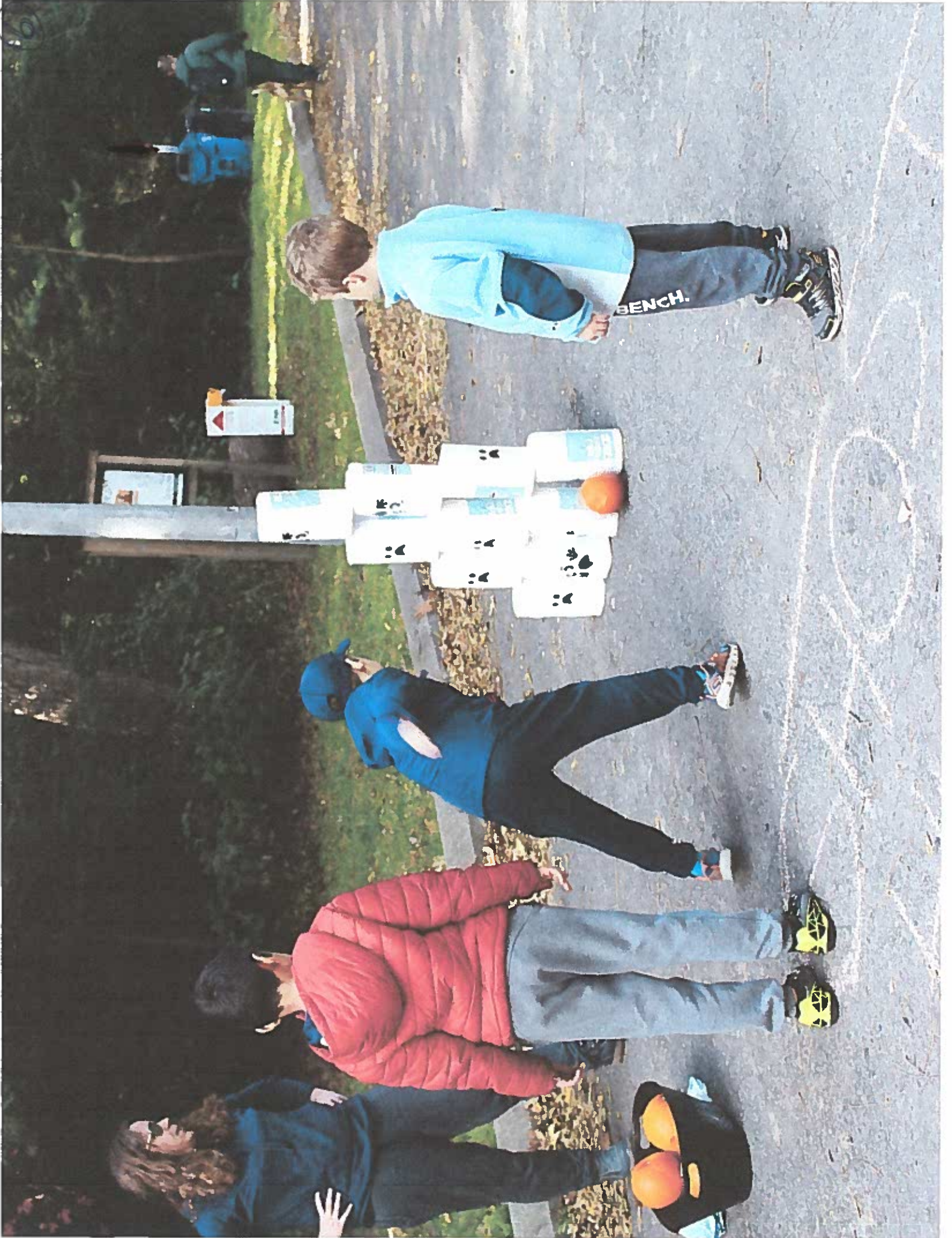


4



5





BENCH.

7

