

Appointment of a Public Member to the Toronto Zoo Board

Date: July 7, 2025

To: Civic Appointments Committee

From: City Clerk

Wards: All

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

This report deals with personal matters about identifiable individuals who are being considered for appointment to the Toronto Zoo Board.

SUMMARY

The Civic Appointments Committee will conduct interviews and recommend one candidate to City Council for appointment to the Toronto Zoo Board of Management.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that:

1. Civic Appointments Committee recommend one candidate to City Council for appointment to the Toronto Zoo Board, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending on November 14, 2026, and until a successor is appointed.
2. City Council direct that Confidential Attachments 1 - 4 remain confidential in their entirety as they relate to personal matters about identifiable individuals being considered for appointment to the Toronto Zoo Board.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting held on June 30, 2025, the Civic Appointments Committee selected three candidates to interview for appointment to the Toronto Zoo Board:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.CA27.3>

At its meeting held October 11 and 12, 2023, City Council appointed three public members to the Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending on July 21, 2027, and until successors are appointed:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.CA8.4>.

At its meeting on December 14 and 15, 2022, City Council appointed Councillor Paul Ainslie as Chair of the Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo for a term of office until December 31, 2024 and until a successor is appointed:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.CC2.4>

COMMENTS

Composition of the Toronto Zoo Board

The board has a total of 11 members including:

- the Mayor or designate appointed by the Mayor
- 2 Council members
- 8 public members

City Council appoints the board's Chair, and the board elects a Vice Chair from amongst its members.

There is currently one position under consideration

There is currently one position under consideration due to the resignation of Jonathan Tsao on March 3, 2025.

Term of Office

The term of office for public members is typically four years. However, this member will serve the remainder of the term of the vacant position and will be appointed for a term of office ending July 21, 2027, and until successors are appointed.

Committee members must be eligible and meet certain qualifications

In addition to the general eligibility requirements set out in the Public Appointments Policy, public members of the board should collectively demonstrate a range of qualifications including:

- financial management
- tourism/attractions marketing
- knowledge of zoos and the role they play in wildlife conservation and education
- largescale fundraising or public-private partnerships, leadership, and partnership development
- general public sector board experience
- a youthful perspective, defined as an individual in the 18-30 age range, is a desired qualification for at least one public member

City staff have consulted with Toronto Zoo staff

The Public Appointments Secretariat consulted with the Toronto Zoo CEO in April 2025 to discuss the Toronto Zoo's strategic plan and current board needs. In addition to the qualifications identified, it was suggested that the following areas of expertise, experience, and/or skills would be assets:

- Fundraising skills and experience in philanthropy
- Financial management and/or accounting skills
- Understanding of or experience in governance
- Experience engaging communities

Public release of the name of the recommended candidate

The name of the recommended candidate will be publicly reported once the Civic Appointments Committee forwards its recommendations to City Council.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

John D. Elvidge
City Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1 – List of Candidates, Qualifications, Confidential Diversity Information Summary, and Applications for Appointment to the Toronto Zoo Board

Confidential Attachment 2 – Diversity Data for Current Public Members on the Toronto Zoo Board

Confidential Attachment 3 - Skills matrix for the Toronto Zoo Board

Confidential Attachment 4 - Interview schedule for July 21, 2025 (to be circulated under separate cover)