

MACOMB COUNTY ZOO AUTHORITY

Minutes

March 13, 2018

At a meeting of the Macomb County Zoo Authority held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. in the Macomb County Administration building, OCE Media Room, 8th Floor, Mount Clemens, the following members were present:

Matt Ahearn
Elizabeth Green
Tom Kalkofen
Diana Rascano
Grace Shore

Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Paul Good, Community and Government Relations Manager, Detroit Zoological Society
Pamela Lavers, Deputy County Executive, Office of the County Executive
Victoria Marchione, Executive Secretary, Office of the County Executive

There being a quorum of the Authority present the meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

AGENDA

Motion by Ms. Shore, supported by Ms. Rascano, to adopt the meeting agenda. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 22, 2017 MEETING

Motion by Ms. Rascano, supported by Mr. Kalkofen, to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2017 meeting. **Motion carried.**

Detroit Zoological Society Presentation

Mr. Paul Good presented an update.

Community Impact Report:

The 4th edition was provided for review. This report is made available every other year as a formal attempt to report to the public the efforts of the Detroit Zoological Society. 57,000 copies are in print. Crain's Detroit Business distributed 26,000 copies to every subscriber in their Monday morning edition on February 19. Good Time Media (parent company to Michigan Chronicle) will add 20,000 copies to their supplemental piece. Electronic versions are also available on the website.

Zoo Update:

The zoo staff is getting ready for spring! The first event for the season is Bunnyville which will be held on March 30 & 31 with an expected crowd of 18,000.

An expansion is in process at the tiger and panda exhibits. These should be ready to open to the public mid to late June. The zoo is also bringing back the Dino's!! They will be placed within the zoo the first week in April.

Cranbrook has reached out to the Detroit Zoo and other zoo communities to find homes for their bat exhibit which has closed the end of February. The Detroit Zoo has obtained 2 – 3 species of bats and a sloth from the Cranbrook Exhibit.

Great Lakes Nature Center:

A lot of dialogue between key members of the County and Zoo leadership. No final decision has been made on location, but the expectation is that it will be determined quickly. Prime site would be on the water. The Clinton River offers numerous locations. Fund raising discussions are in progress. The goal is to have the nature center open the spring of 2020.

Ms. Rascano asked that a discussion be held with the zoo staff to consider holding a food drive for pets and their owners. Mr. Ahearn suggested tying in a food drive with the adopt-a-pet program which has huge turnout and press coverage.

PLANTE MORAN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

No questions or concerns were raised. The group was made aware the price is up \$500 from previous years. Reminder that five years ago the Authority partnered with the County on the audit and as a result saved \$35,000 in audit fees that will go to the zoo.

Motion to receive and file the Plante Moran agreement by Mr. Kalkofen, supported by Ms. Green.

Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Rascano brought up the discussion of parking. In 2016, attendance was at 1.7 million guests resulting in parking issues. Attendance at 1.6 eases the parking pressures. Various parking options were discussed including OCC, and the golf course.

696 closures are a concern and special meetings with MDOT have been held to discuss taking measures to minimize closure during the heaviest weekends.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public participation

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Rascano, supported by Ms. Green, to adjourn the meeting at 10:09 a.m. **Motion carried.**

The next meeting date is scheduled for August 21, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. OCE Media Room