

RECREATION, LIBRARIES AND AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE

11-0296R

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING USE OF UP TO \$142,488 OF UNSPENT ZOO FUNDS FOR SELECT LAKE SUPERIOR ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN PROJECTS NECESSARY FOR RE-ACCREDITATION.

CITY PROPOSAL:

WHEREAS, in 2006, the Lake Superior Zoological Garden (zoo) lost its accreditation status with the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) due to a long, slow decline in the overall upkeep and operation of the zoo; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, a national planning firm recommended the operations of the zoo be shifted to a nonprofit; and

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2009, the city council authorized the city of Duluth to enter into an agreement with the Arrowhead Zoological Society, Inc., (zoo society) for operation of the zoo (Resolution 09-0764); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the agreement was to rejuvenate the zoo as a quality attraction and resource for people of all ages and to make the zoo a source of pride for the entire region with the ultimate goal of regaining accreditation from the AZA; and

WHEREAS, as part of the agreement, the parties agreed to cooperate in financing Zoo improvements and to explore non-city financing opportunities, which has occurred with a number of projects, including state bonding for the Polar Shores exhibit and bridge repairs; and

WHEREAS, as part of the agreement, the city provides the zoo society \$680,000 a year provided from tourism taxes and state grant funds; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the routine costs of operating the zoo, the AZA identified more than \$800,000 in deficiencies that needed to be addressed at the facility before it could be considered for re-accreditation; and

WHEREAS, during 2009, the zoo society consciously did not spend the full amount of funds appropriated by the city as the society wanted to ensure that repairs and upgrades to the zoo were done in an efficient and strategic manner to maximize the limited funds available to the society for that purpose; and

WHEREAS, it was the understanding of the Zoo Society that the unspent funds from 2009 could be carried forward for re-accreditation related projects as long as the council authorized the spending of those funds as that expenditure was not expressly provided for in the Zoo Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Zoo is now poised for re-accreditation by the AZA and has presented the city with a list of projects necessary for re-accreditation, a copy of which is on file with the city clerk as Public Document No. \_\_\_\_\_; and

WHEREAS, the city council recognizes that the Zoo Society has been diligent in leveraging non-city funding for the operation and upgrade of the Zoo.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that city officials are hereby authorized to use up to \$142,488 of unspent Zoo funds from 2009 to reimburse the Zoo Society for 2011 re-accreditation related expenses in accordance with the reimbursement process provided for in Section V of the Zoo Agreement; funds to be paid from Fund 200 (Zoo), Account 2530 (Unreserved Fund Balance).

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Director

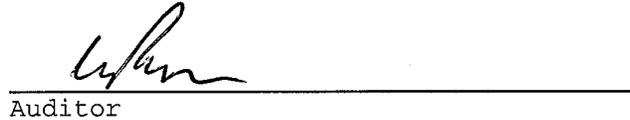
Approved for presentation to council:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer

Approved as to form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor

PARKS/ATTY      GBJ:cjk      6/2/2011

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This resolution authorizes the use of up to \$142,488 of unspent Zoo funds to be reimbursed to the Zoo Society for select projects required to be completed for Zoo re-accreditation by the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

## Major Projects for Accreditation

### 2010 Projects

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Blacktopped Pathways                          | \$25,575       |
| New Flooring - Lower Main Bldg                | \$12,084       |
| Education/Volunteer Office Updated            | \$7,021        |
| Zoolab Converted to Useable Office Space      | \$15,682       |
| Removal/Trimming of Dead/Dying Trees          | \$8,350        |
| Roof and Holding Bldg Repairs - Raven Exhibit | \$1,803        |
| Barn Repairs and Loft Improvement             | \$1,204        |
| New Signage and Flags on Grand Ave            | <u>\$6,964</u> |
|   | \$78,683       |

### 2011 Projects

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Nocturnal Exhibit Improvements:<br>Drains, Electrical, and Glass | \$40,000        |
| Restroom Renovation Lower Main Bldg                              | \$70,000        |
| Kingsbury Creek Retaining Wall                                   | \$25,000        |
| Deer Yard Fencing & Erosion Improvements                         | \$30,000        |
| Polar Filtration Supplemental Improvements                       | \$15,000        |
| Concrete Repairs at Entrance                                     | \$8,000         |
| Canopy Enclosure   | \$18,000        |
| Misc. Electrical, Plumbing, HVAC & General Repairs               | \$20,000        |
| Pavilion Roof Replacement  | <u>\$60,000</u> |
|  | \$286,000       |