



GIANT PANDA ACQUISITION TASK FORCE

2010-06-27

3:00 p.m.

**Toronto Zoo Administrative Boardroom
361A Old Finch Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M1B 5K7**

MINUTES

Present: Dr. M. Cheung (Chair), Councillor R. Cho, Councillor G. Mammoliti, J. Torzsok

Regrets: Dr. G. Chong, M. Chong, S. Chong, G. Li, J. Man, M. Rowswell, S. Wong, C. Yelle

Staff Present: S. Curtis, Dr. W. Rapley, J. Tracogna

1. Update on Recent Developments

The Panda Task Force had before it copies of media articles from various newspapers on the acquisition of Giant Pandas. On Thursday 2010-06-24, Prime Minister Harper delivered remarks at a dinner with Hu Jintao, President of China, celebrating Canada-China relations in which the PM "expressed Canada's pleasure that negotiations will soon begin to secure a long-term loan of a pair of giant pandas to Canada."

J. Tracogna provided an update on three recent developments. Firstly, Dr. Cheung had been invited along with approximately 70 guests to a luncheon on 2010-06-24, hosted by the Governor General Mich elle Jean in honour of Hu Jintao, President of China. Secondly, Dr. Cheung was also invited to join the Governor General's official delegation to China from 2010-06-28 to 2010-07-06. Dr. Cheung was among nine Canadians selected. Among the various itinerary stops, a potential visit to Chengdu's panda base site was also planned. Thirdly, the three CEO's of Toronto, Calgary and Granby Zoos (including Bill Rapley), met in Ottawa on 2010-06-24 with representatives from Foreign Affairs & International Trade to discuss the Panda Magic proposal. G. Mammoliti recommended that the Giant Panda Acquisition Task Forcefully support Dr. Cheung as its representative while in China, and upon his return, a meeting of the Task Force be scheduled for further updates and a discussion of next steps.

A special thank you to MP, M. Chong for assisting in distributing the Panda Magic proposal to key Members of Parliament including the PM's Office on behalf of the Giant Panda Acquisition Task Force.

Given the short notification of today's meeting, R. Cho recommended that no major decisions regarding the Panda initiative be made until Dr. Cheung returns from China and a Task Force meeting be scheduled.

2. Other Business

Fundraising objectives and mandates were issues discussed. It was determined that funds required for the Panda initiative would take more than a year to raise. KCI will be providing a presentation at the next Fundraising Committee 2010-06-28, which will address progress to date on a number of fundraising activities.

On a motion by Councillor G. Mammoliti the meeting was adjourned seconded by J. Torzsok.

3. Next Meeting Date

Thursday, 2010-07-08
Toronto Zoo, Administration Building
TZ_Admin Boardroom
2:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:30 p.m.
A. Harris
Recording Secretary