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June 20, 2018

Re: Item 8.2 Items for Authority Action, June 22, 2018 Authority Meeting

Dear Chair and Members of the Authority

The Rouge Valley Foundation (RVF) respectfully requests that the following be formally considered for recommendation and adoption. We would be happy to discuss the issues with the Board at their convenience.

TRCA RECOMMENDATION:

any TRCA land not included in the boundary to the Toronto Zoo will be transferred to Parks Canada (PC) for Rouge National Urban Park (RNUP) purposes;

RVF Request:

Since it is the land that is to be the focus of transfer to Parks Canada, the Rouge Valley Foundation requests that the Pearce House, also known as the Rouge Valley Conservation Centre, have its ownership and rights transferred to the Rouge Valley Foundation for a nominal fee (as specified in the existing lease agreement). As the Rouge Valley Foundation raised the money and community support to rescue the home from demolition, moved, and restored the home, and has maintained, serviced and operated it for the past 23 years we feel the community should retain ownership of the building.

Link to video of house being moved: <https://youtu.be/9RJbVPEpPFI>

TRCA RECOMMENDATION:

AND WHEREAS there is interest in ensuring that any transfer of lands for Toronto Zoo or RNUP purposes be subject to certain conditions to ensure best management practices of ecological integrity and restoration opportunities

RVF Request:

The Rouge Valley Foundation feels strongly that the Joint Facility, should it be developed, should be constructed on the Westside of Meadowvale Road or along Sheppard Avenue. It will be impossible to maintain the ecological integrity of the park with the facility located on the east side of Meadowvale. Every week the Rouge Valley Foundation helps to rescue animals off the road, or bears witness to the mortality of both common species and species at risk a like from car, bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Having the facility on the east side of the road will only increase road mortality of wildlife and continue to decrease the quality of the surrounding habitat from the number of users and the pressures they bring, increasing in edge effects for example. In addition, Parking Lot 3 or 4 is unsuitable as the Zooshare Biogas industrial facility

will be built shortly, and require continued access by dozens of 18 wheel transport trucks every day to fuel the operation. It should be turning 3,000 tonnes of zoo animal manure and 14,000 tonnes of unwanted grocery store produce power shortly. Construction of the plant, will occupy an acre of land approximately 200 m from the Pearse House and one of the proposed locations for the Joint Facility in Lot 3. These facts have not appeared in any of the previous discussions.

Link to Zooshare Biogas Facility information <https://zooshare.ca>

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT TRCA enter into an updated tripartite agreement with City of Toronto and the Toronto Zoo Board for the use of the TRCA Lands for Zoo purposes subject to the following amendments:

Point 6. That a clause be added to the tripartite agreement that the parties may agree to amend the boundary at a future date to accommodate the outcome of the PC lead process for determining the ultimate location of an orientation and education facility, ***but should be focused to areas west of Meadowvale Road and along Sheppard Avenue;***

That the following clauses be added to the tripartite agreement:

(Point 9.) That Parks Canada will enter into a MOU with RVF to define the relationships, roles, activities, and responsibilities of the two organizations.

(Point 10.) That the Rouge Valley Foundation will be the sole occupant of the Rouge Valley Conservation Centre (Pearse House).

Thank you for your time and consideration. We would be happy to discuss these requests in further detail. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



p.p. Serena Lawrie
Rouge Valley Foundation
Board of Directors