

AGENDA

Potter Park Zoo Advisory Board
1301 S. Pennsylvania Avenue ~ Lansing, MI 48912
Telephone: 517.342.2776; Fax: 517.316.3894

The Board information packet is available on-line by going to www.potterparkzoo.org, selecting "About," clicking on "Zoo Advisory Board" and clicking "November 8, 2023".

POTTER PARK ZOO ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, November 8, 2023
6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the October 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes
3. Limited Public Comment – *Limited to 3 minutes with no discussion*
4. Late Items/Deletions/Consent Items
5. Action Items
 - a. Zoo Hours - Resolution
6. Director's Report
 - a. Finance Report – Cynthia Wagner
 - b. Admission Report- Cynthia Wagner
 - c. Director's Report – Cynthia Wagner
7. New Business
 - a. Zoo In Your Neighborhood Pass Use Report
 - b. Endowment Fund
8. Old Business
 - a. Asphalt Replacement Progress
 - b. Animal Health Facility Progress
 - c. Capital Campaign Update
9. Board Comments
10. Limited Public Comment - *Limited to 3 minutes with no discussion*
11. Upcoming Meeting
 - a. Zoo Advisory Board Meeting January 10, 2024 at 6:00 PM
12. Adjournment

Official minutes are stored and available for inspection at the address noted at the top of this agenda. Potter Park Zoo will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting for the visually impaired, for individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon five (5) working days' notice to the Zoo. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Zoo by writing to: Zoo Director, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing, MI 48912, or by calling 517.342.2776.

**MINUTES – INGHAM COUNTY
POTTER PARK ZOO ADVISORY BOARD**

**1301 S. Pennsylvania Avenue,
Lansing, MI, October 11, 2023**

BOARD MEMBER

PRESENT: Chair Cheryl Bergman, Vice Chair Kyle Binkley, Commissioner Tennis, Dr. Richard Snider, Emily Linden, Caitlin O’Rourke, Mary Leys, Julie Pingston, and Dr. Jack Kottwitz

ALSO PRESENT: Cynthia Wagner, Zoo Director and Amy L. Morris-Hall, Zoological Society Executive Director

ABSENT: Molly Korn, Kasey Kent, and Commissioner Trubac

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES: Moved by Julie Pingston and supported by Caitlyn O’Rourke to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2023 meeting as written, **Yes-9; No-0; MOTION CARRIED**

LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT

None

LATE ITEMS/DELETIONS/CONSENT ITEMS

None

ACTION ITEMS

2024 Meeting Dates

Moved by Julie Pingston and supported by Commissioner Tennis to approve the 2024 meeting dates, **Yes-9; No-0; MOTION CARRIED**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Director Wagner reported that while there have not been a lot of unexpected expenses, expenses are still high for the year due to AZA preparations. She stated that the majority of the fund balance would get spent completing the asphalt project and that the zoo would need to rebuild the fund balance in 2024. Chair Bergman asked if there would be any funds remaining for an emergency. Director Wagner stated they were budgeted to put over \$300,000 back into fund balance in 2024 so funds should be available for emergencies.

ADMISSION & PARKING REPORT

Director Wagner reported that paid admission numbers were down for August and down overall for the year, but it is to be expected due to the asphalt project. She stated the zoo had purposefully advertised the various closures so that public would be aware and not visit if that was a concern. She stated October is the last month for parking revenue and that they typically see a boost during boo at the zoo weekends.

ZOO DIRECTOR REPORT

Major Elements Reported by Director Wagner:

The zoo participated in a new training called The Civility Project led by Nolan Finley and Stephen Henderson.

Mariah Martinez and Margaret Holtschlag presented at two different sessions at the AZA annual conference.

Several staff have attended trainings recently including the otter keeper workshop, registrar conference, AAZK and the Davenport Management Course.

Many conservation education events have been held this fall including World Rhino Day and International Red Panda Day.

Guests can now check out EnChroma glasses to help with color blindness in collaboration with Choose Lansing.

Olive Garden of Okemos provided 165 free meals for the September FALCONERS event.

FALCONERS historical program numbers as well as ZIYN program numbers from 2023 are included in the packet. Dr. Snider requested to see number of passes used by location of community partners.

Mariah Martinez accepted a position on the AZA Diversity Committee for a three-year term.

There are 14 districts and six counties represented among 45 students in the 2023/24 Eaton RESA zoo class.

The baby penguin is now on exhibit with the group.

The okapi is planned to arrive in late October, but the grand opening for the exhibit will be in April or May 2024.

The Ungulate TAG is now providing conservation information on SAFE species and on organizations that are vetted for zoos to partner with. The black rhino information sheet is included in the packet.

NEW BUSINESS

AZA Accreditation – Discussion

Potter Park Zoo passed accreditation. The accreditation commission talked to the zoo staff that attended and relayed that PPZ must be more proactive in improvements to exhibits and not only be doing what is specified as a concern by AZA. All but one of the concerns listed are facilities related. Major funding is needed to get ahead on preventative maintenance and exhibit improvements.

Future Capital Campaign

Director Wagner explained that based on the findings of the AZA inspection and accreditation report that it is necessary to include the large cat enclosures in the capital campaign. The plan is to start the campaign at the beginning of 2024. A significant amount of funding is needed to catch up on exhibit renovations.

Zoo Board Tour Date

The Society Board has a board meeting on Oct. 23 that will be a tour of the zoo. Director Wagner and Executive Director Morris would like to invite the Zoo Board to attend the tour. The tour will be to show some of the animal exhibits that need renovations including cat holding. Zoo Board members agreed this would be helpful. Director Wagner stated she would send out a meeting invitation.

December Board Meeting

Director Wagner will be out of the country during the scheduled December board meeting and requested to cancel the meeting. The board agreed to cancel the December meeting.

City of Lansing Polling Location – Discussion

Director Wagner reported that Zoo Board member Emily Linden had introduced the City of Lansing Clerk to discuss the possibility of the zoo being a polling location. A document provided by the City Clerk's office states the requirements of being a polling location and Director Wagner stated all requirements can be met. She also stated she had provided all information to the Controller's office for approval.

Moved by Dr. Snider and supported by Commissioner Tennis to support the zoo as a polling location for the City of Lansing.

Hourly Attendance – Discussion

Director Wagner stated attendance by month and hour for the summer season is included in the packet. The last hour the zoo is open has minimal attendance. Director Wagner will be writing a Resolution for the November board meeting to change zoo hours in the month of April to reflect hours in September and October. She also shared that the zoo is planning to add a walking club from May through October from 8 – 9 a.m. daily. The walking club would be free with registration if the zoo can get a sponsor for the program. It will provide a safe space for the community to walk as well as provide a fun avenue to market the new paths.

OLD BUSINESS

Asphalt Replacement Progress

Director Wagner reported that there have been challenges with phase three including a lot of rain that has extended the timeline. She reported that the plan is still to finish before the end of October.

Animal Health Facility Progress

DeMaria is under contract for the hospital and the design meetings have started every Wednesday. We will set a tentative ground-breaking date for late March or early April. We will need to bond for the portion of funds still needed. A chart is included in the packet showing the projected bond payment.

Zoo App Update

Zoological Society Executive Director Morris reported she had met with Ciesa about app possibilities. When the zoo is ready to move forward it would be best to collaborate with Ciesa since they manage the zoo website. Ms. O'Rourke agreed based on her conversations with app vendors that working the website vendor would be best.

BOARD COMMENTS

Dr. Snider asked if there were plans to update the outside of the Reptile Building. Director Wagner stated there were no plans for major changes, but that they would look at what could be done to brighten the outside appearance.

Executive Director Morris-Hall announced that Julie Pingston has been honored by the Lansing Chamber of Commerce for the 2023 Athena Award.

LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting ended at 7:09 p.m.

DRAFT

POTTER PARK ZOO ADVISORY BOARD

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION # 21-233
VISITATION HOURS OF THE POTTER PARK ZOO**

WHEREAS, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution #21-233 authorizing visitation hours at Potter Park Zoo; and

WHEREAS, the historical zoo attendance records show low attendance between from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. daily; and

WHEREAS, the temperatures in April frequently prevent animals from being able to be outside on exhibit for zoo guests.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Potter Park Zoo Advisory Board supports the amending the visitation hours of the Potter Park Zoo as follows:

FROM

Current Potter Park Zoo Visitation Hours

January 1 – April 1	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
April 1 – Labor Day	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Labor Day – October 31	9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mon – Fri , 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sat & Sun
November 1 – December 31	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
December 25	CLOSED

Early Closures

One Thursday in May, June, July, August, and September	Close at 2 p.m.
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TO

New Potter Park Zoo Visitation Hours

January 1 – April 1	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
April 1 – April 30	9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mon – Fri, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sat & Sun
May 1 – Labor Day	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Labor Day – October 31	9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mon – Fri, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sat & Sun
November 1 – December 31	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
December 25	CLOSED

**POTTER PARK ZOO
BALANCE SHEET - PRELIMINARY
AS OF OCTOBER 31ST, 2023**

ASSETS

CASH	\$ 1,345,768
DEPOSITORY CASH	152,361
IMPREST CASH	8,000
TAXES REC - CURRENT LEVY	-
IFT TAX RECEIVABLE	(11,617)
TAXES REC - DELINQUENT	35,659
ESTIMATED UNCOLLECTIBLE DELINQUENT TAXES	(18,426)
ACCOUNTS REC-OTHER	428
PROPERTY TAX RECEIVABLE	-
INTEREST RECEIVABLE	5,144
DUE FROM STATE	-
INVENTORY	133,003
PREPAID EXPENSES	83,790

TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 1,734,109</u></u>
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LIABILITIES

VOUCHERS PAYABLE	10
DUE TO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY	73,774
TAX LEVY LIABILITY	10,000
SALES TAX PAYABLE	2,357
REFUND NOW	(61)
REFUND APPLY	(865)
ACCRUED PAYROLL	-
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	9,320
DEFERRED REVENUE - DELINQUENT TAXES	19,682
DEFERRED REVENUE - PROPERTY TAXES	(169,644)
DEF REVENUE -POTTER PARK	11,371

TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u><u>(44,056)</u></u>
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FUND BALANCE

UNSPENDABLE	133,003
UNRESTRICTED FUND BALANCE	1,645,162
	<u>1,778,164</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u><u>\$ 1,734,109</u></u>
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NOTE: This is based on figures posted to fiscal year 2022 as of the current date. The county audit has not been completed, and these figures may change. Financial Services will provide a final financial statement once the audit has been completed.

Prepared By: Stephanie George

POTTER PARK ZOO
YEAR TO DATE BUDGET/ACTUAL REPORT - PRELIMINARY
FOR 12 MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER 31ST, 2023

	2023 BUDGET	OCTOBER 2023 YTD ACTUAL	BUDGET REMAINING	% OF BUDGET	OCTOBER 2022 YTD ACTUAL
REVENUES					
PROPERTY TAX	\$ 4,202,357	\$ 4,419,735	\$ (217,378)	105.17%	\$ 4,031,648
UNALLOCATED PORTION OF TAXES (2 MONTHS)	\$ -	\$ (736,622)	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -
ADMISSIONS	\$ 653,000	\$ 771,490	\$ (118,490)	118.15%	\$ 14,130
CONCESSIONS, GIFT SHOP, VENDING	\$ 655,000	\$ 822,815	\$ (167,815)	125.62%	\$ 11,999
PARKING FEES	\$ 185,000	\$ 165,366	\$ 19,635	89.39%	\$ 2,286
INTERACTIVE SITES	\$ 80,000	\$ 106,306	\$ (26,306)	132.88%	\$ 1,811
INTEREST INCOME	\$ 30,000	\$ 53,503	\$ (23,503)	178.34%	\$ 358
OTHER REVENUES	\$ (303,517)	\$ 103,342	\$ (406,859)	-34.05%	\$ 7,181
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 5,501,840	\$ 5,705,934	\$ (940,717)	103.71%	\$ 4,069,413
EXPENDITURES					
PERSONNEL SERVICES					
Salaries & Wages - Full Time	\$ 1,871,037	\$ 1,482,295	\$ 388,742	79.22%	\$ 65,744
Salaries & Wages - Seasonal	\$ 605,284	\$ 748,148	\$ (142,864)	123.60%	\$ 17,511
Benefits	\$ 1,140,437	\$ 887,036	\$ 253,401	77.78%	\$ 56,843
Total Personnel Services	\$ 3,616,758	\$ 3,117,479	\$ 499,279	86.20%	\$ 140,098
CONTROLLABLE EXPENDITURES					
Supplies	\$ 364,000	\$ 513,476	\$ (149,476)	141.06%	\$ 16,113
Animal Care	\$ 312,000	\$ 234,478	\$ 77,522	75.15%	\$ 11,539
Purchased Services	\$ 2,021,000	\$ 738,685	\$ 1,282,315	36.55%	\$ 40,085
Utilities - Telephone	\$ 20,125	\$ 16,056	\$ 4,069	79.78%	\$ 10
Rentals & Leases	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,692	\$ (2,692)	167.31%	\$ -
Other Expenses	\$ 188,200	\$ 109,276	\$ 78,924	58.06%	\$ 26,818
Total Controllable Expenditures	\$ 2,909,325	\$ 1,618,663	\$ 1,290,662	55.64%	\$ 94,566
NON-CONTROLLABLE EXPENDITURES					
Utilities	\$ 240,000	\$ 170,601	\$ 69,399	71.08%	\$ -
Insurance	\$ 90,000	\$ 70,307	\$ 19,694	78.12%	\$ 68,544
IT Support Expense	\$ 202,727	\$ 173,622	\$ 29,105	85.64%	\$ 15,641
Other Expenses	\$ 531	\$ -	\$ 531	0.00%	\$ 124
Total Non-Controllable Expenditures	\$ 533,258	\$ 414,530	\$ 118,728	77.74%	\$ 84,309
CAPITAL OUTLAY					
Capital Improvements	\$ (1,499,500)	\$ 840,724	\$ (2,340,224)	-56.07%	\$ 20,787
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 5,559,841	\$ 5,991,396	\$ (431,555)	107.76%	\$ 339,760
TOTAL CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	\$ (58,001)	\$ (285,461)			\$ 3,729,653
FUND BALANCE AS OF 1/1/23					
NON-SPENDABLE		\$ 133,003			
UNRESTRICTED		\$ 1,194,001			
		<u>\$ 1,327,004</u>			
FUND BALANCE AS OF 10/31/2023		\$ 1,041,542			
FUND BALANCE AS OF 10/31/2023					
UNSPENDABLE		\$ 133,003			
UNRESTRICTED		\$ 908,540			
		<u>\$ 1,041,542</u>			

**POTTER PARK ZOO
MONTHLY ATTENDANCE REPORT
FOR MONTH AND YTD October 31, 2023**

ADMISSION TYPE	2022	2023 Gate	2023 Online	2023 Total	BETTER (WORSE) THAN PY	2022 COUNT	2023 COUNT	BETTER (WORSE) THAN PY
GENERAL								
CHILD RESIDENT	426	160	41	201	(225)	11,099	8,454	(2,645)
CHILD NON-RESIDENT	339	257	282	539	200	14,346	13,605	(741)
CHILDREN - UNDER 3	521	237	159	396	(125)	8,129	7,481	(648)
ADULT RESIDENT	1,599	1,514	204	1,718	119	24,648	25,252	604
ADULT NON-RESIDENT	822	741	521	1,262	440	26,375	25,671	(704)
SENIOR/MILITARY RESIDENT	163	109	16	125	(38)	3,184	2,709	(475)
SENIOR/MILITARY NON-RESIDENT	146	141	63	204	58	4,219	3,914	(305)
GROUPS	0	504	0	504	504	18,138	21,481	3,343
SUBTOTAL	4,016	3,663	1,286	4,949	933	110,138	108,567	(1,571)
MEMBERSHIPS/PROGRAMS								
PPZ MEMBERS/RECIPROCAL	1,303	1,661	0	1,661	358	18,712	18,645	(67)
SOCIETY PROGRAMMING/EVENTS	9,287	9,698	464	10,162	875	24,475	25,478	1,003
MONDAY PROGRAM	411	630	0	630	219	4,340	5,862	1,522
ZIYN	250	234	0	234	(16)	4,275	4,088	(187)
OTHER (non-paying)	0	440	0	440	440	1,562	5,168	3,606
SUBTOTAL	11,251	12,663	464	13,127	1,876	53,364	59,241	5,877
GRAND TOTAL	15,267	16,326	1,750	18,076	2,809	163,502	167,808	4,306

ADMISSION TYPE	DESCRIPTION
CHILDREN RESIDENT	Children, Ingham County ages 3-16 (\$5 April - October, \$3 November-March)
CHILDREN NON-RESIDENT	Children, Out of Ingham County ages 3-16 (\$5 April - October, \$3 November-March)
CHILDREN - UNDER 3	All Children, any county under age 3 (Free)
ADULT RESIDENT	Adult of Ingham County (\$7 April 1 - Oct. 31, \$4 November-March)
ADULT NON-RESIDENT	Adult Out of Ingham County (\$13 April 1 - Oct. 31, \$4 November-March)
SENIOR/MILITARY RESIDENT	Seniors/Military of Ingham County (\$5 April 1 - Oct. 31, \$4 November-March)
SENIOR/MILITARY NON-RESIDENT	Seniors/Military of Ingham County (\$11 April 1 - Oct. 31, \$4 November-March)
PPZ MEMBERS	Visitors holding membership at PPZ - one time payment
SPECIAL EVENTS - PPZ	Admission included in event fee
SPECIAL EVENTS - COUNTY	Admission included in event fee
RECIPROCAL ZOO MEMBERS	Reciprocal Zoo memberships (Discount varies)
RECIPROCAL ZOO MEMBERS (100%)	Reciprocal Zoo Members (Free admission)
GROUPS	20 or more guests paying together (\$1 off per person)
MONDAY PROGRAM	Ingham County and City of Lansing Residents free 9-12 PM on non-holiday Mondays
OTHER (non-paying)	Any coupon related attendee

**POTTER PARK ZOO
MONTHLY PARKING REPORT
FOR MONTH AND YTD ENDING October 31, 2023**

ADMISSION TYPE								
	2022	2023 Gate	2023 Online	2023 Total	BETTER (WORSE) THAN PY	2022	2023	BETTER (WORSE) THAN PY
ANNUAL RESIDENT PASS	0	0	0	0	0	216	291	75
ANNUAL NON-RESIDENT PASS	0	0	0	0	0	26	31	5
PPZ MEMBER DELUXE/PREMIUM	561	492	0	492	(69)	3,263	2,481	(782)
DAILY RESIDENT PARKING	2,346	2,476	45	2,521	175	18,858	18,356	(502)
DAILY NON-RESIDENT PARKING	1,791	1,720	137	1,857	66	19,660	21,242	1,582
EVENTS	126	0	0	0	(126)	2,080	827	(1,253)
ANNUAL PASS RESIDENT ENTRY	265	216	0	216	(49)	1,955	805	(1,150)
ANNUAL PASS NON-RESIDENT ENTRY	12	5	0	5	(7)	45	206	161
WAIVED ANNUAL PASS	0	18	0	18	18	44	59	15
OTHER (non-paying)	21	111	0	111	90	895	2,390	1,495
TOTAL	5,122	5,038	182	5,220	98	47,042	46,688	(354)

Paid 378

ADMISSION TYPE	
ANNUAL RESIDENT PASS	
ANNUAL NON-RESIDENT PASS	
RESIDENT DAILY PASS	
NON-RESIDENT DAILY PASS	



**Director's Report
November 8, 2023**

Guest Services

Guests may notice a newer look to the portion of the website that supports purchasing tickets, memberships, booking pavilions, or many other transactions. The new WebTrac interface went live in October with an updated look and enhancements to the backside operations.

As we transition into November the Savanna Grill will be switching to weekend-only operations beginning Oct. 28. Guests will still be able to grab a warm cup of soup or a hot coffee along with most of their favorites on weekends through November and into December. The Savanna Grill will also be opening during Wonderland of Lights evenings beginning Dec. 18 when the lights shine the brightest.

Jon Lawrence will be attending the Tennessee gift show circuit the week of November 6-11 to maximize the zoo's purchasing endeavors by placing orders early to take advantage of special opportunities offered at three different shows being held in nearby cities. The goal is to seek out new and unique items to appeal to zoo guests and enhance the messaging of what they learned while visiting the zoo.

Jon Lawrence was elected to serve on the Zoo Aquarium & Gardens Buyers Group (ZAG) Board of Director for a three-year term that begins January 1, 2024. ZAG is a collection of merchandise buyers for zoos, aquariums, gardens and other wildlife-related institutions and attractions. The goals of ZAG are to increase and improve communication between buyers, and to raise awareness and professionalism of the field within the zoo and aquarium industry.

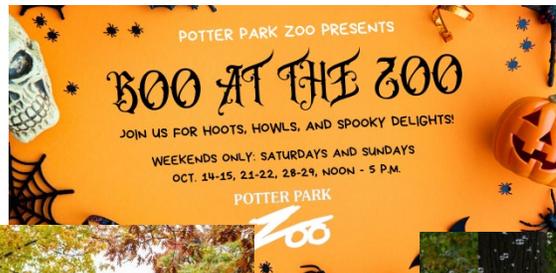
Visitor Conservation Funding Opportunities: Guest Services front line employees are responsible for giving guests additional opportunities for contributing to the zoo's conservation efforts. Year-to-date income collected for these conservation efforts is:

○ 366	Tips 4 Conservation	\$620.93
○ 859	Straws for Conservation	\$216.00
○ 90	Recovery/General Donations	\$285.02
○ 3876	Bookmark Donations	\$4,132.40
	Total =	\$5,254.35

Public Safety

- Total injury reports are down 14% compared to 2022.
- Rick Parker will be taking a “stop the Bleed” instructor course; staff will then be trained in the course.
- The last required AZA drill will be completed the week of 11/06/23.

Events



This year there were 9,698 attendees with around 4,000 on the last weekend.

Get ready to embrace the magic of the holiday season at Potter Park Zoo’s 31st annual Wonderland of Lights! Our enchanting wonderland is back to turn your winter nights into a mesmerizing holiday paradise. Here are the details you need:



When: Thursdays through Sundays (closed thanksgiving)

Time: 5 to 8 p.m.

Dates: Nov. 18 – Dec. 23

Where: Potter Park Zoo

Note: Santa will be available for photos on zoo grounds during the Wonderland of Lights event on Fridays and Saturdays only.

Diversity, Equity, Access and Inclusion (DEAI)

FALCONERS

Our October FALCONERS was a great success with over 220 participants. Families and support groups enjoyed the zoo to themselves while they were able to have a wonderful Boo at the Zoo experience. The next two FALCONERS are Sat. Nov. 18 and Tues. Dec. 5.

Survey comment from October event:

“Just want to say thank you to everyone who put on this event! Wow! Our son has ASD and is 9 and doesn't participate in stuff like this. Well guess what! He loved the glow room, the zoo, the hayride, the maze, the cider and donuts and the reptile house!!!! It was the best night ever!!! To see him so engaged and taking every moment in- the chance to be a normal kid is HUGE FOR THIS MOM. We're going through huge family changes and last Friday gave my boys a chance to be kids. They had so much fun!!!! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!!!!!!!!”

Zoo in Your Neighborhood

Since January a total of 1,224 passes have been checked out with 2,425 adults (ages 12+) and 2,063 children (ages 0-12) using the zoo passes to enter the zoo.

Audio Tour

Communication Specialist, Heath Thurman and Equity and Engagement Program Manager, Mariah Martinez, created an audio tour of the reptile and small mammal house. This tour visits each habitat and gives a description of the animal in that habitat as well as what is included on their signage. It was created for those with visual impairments but will also be a great resource for teachers to use in the classroom. This is the first of many audio tours they plan to accomplish for the zoo.

Conservation Engagement

This year we had five new Halloween-themed Conservation Education stations! These focused on the misconceptions of ravens and bats, how animal skulls can be used as educational tools, and the amazing adaptations that nocturnal animals and carnivorous plants have to help them survive. There were five carts out each of the six days of the event.

Conservation Education Stations recorded 15,466 contacts made, however this number is under the true number as some volunteers communicated that they had missed counting the contacts they made.

Zoo Crew has begun:

- 12 Weeks
- 24 Sessions
- 57 Unique Learners (Age Groups, 5-8 and 9-12)
- 296 Enrollments

BIG Zoo Lesson debuted a new lesson on River Otters.

Teacher feedback from their BZL week:

- 1. Have you seen a significant or meaningful change emerge through your participation in BIG Zoo Lesson? Please describe these meaningful changes or highlights of your BZL week.**

I experienced a meaningful change in my own attitude/perspective because of this year's Big Zoo Lesson. This group of students had their kindergarten year cut short and their first-grade year mostly online due to the covid-19 pandemic. Because of this, we are noticing some large gaps in learning that we are trying to address in third grade. During the school year so far, students have been a bit more dependent when it comes to academic work, and I think I had lower, or maybe different, expectations for them because of that. Our week at the zoo drastically changed that perception and showed me how much this group of students is capable of. As there is not a lot of time for direct, whole-group instruction at the zoo, students are often given a quick set of directions and then sent off with a chaperone to do their observation. I was amazed at how deeply students were studying their animals, and how quickly they were able to see patterns and make connections. This was especially evident during the bird beaks and feet activity. Students get a quick synopsis of the different types of beaks and feet, but largely they are observing the artifacts on their own and making connections. The students were able to successfully state the type of beak, probably diet, and probable habitat with ease. What was cool was that if two students disagreed on a type of beak or a probable habitat, they had respectful conversations during which both students made their claim and supported it with evidence. In many cases, they were able to come to a consensus. It was awesome to watch and reminded me how much students can do on their own if we just give them time to explore, inquire, and converse.

Another interesting change that came out of the Big Zoo Lesson was new relationships between students in the class that likely would not have occurred without this trip, especially since we are still so early in the school year. We have students rank the animals that they would like to observe from 1-4 and group students based on their preferences. Because of this, a lot of times students who are not close friends, or students who have never spoken to each other are paired up for the week during their observations. They can bond over their animal, and typically that bond carries back to school.

A final change that I noticed was in the parents/chaperones. While we did not have enough chaperones on Monday, two of the chaperones that attended with my class had such a wonderful day, that their spouses signed up to come later in the week. One parent expressed to me that he wished he had done things like this when he was growing up. He told me that he did not like school because he did not do things that excited him. He tries very hard to not let his attitude show in front of his child, but was so encouraged by this field trip. We also had multiple parents who, although they live in Lansing, had never visited Potter Park Zoo before. They were excited

to take their families back after our field trip. It was great witnessing parents' bond with their children in a new way.

Anything else you would like to say?

I would just like to say that I am very thankful for the opportunity to bring my students to the Potter Park Zoo for an entire week. This is such a unique opportunity that I know not everyone is able to experience. We are only able to make this happen because of the generous grant donors, and so we are very grateful. As I am finishing up my masters' degree in literacy studies, a huge focus of my program has been on relevancy. That is, student engagement will increase when they are doing tasks that they deem authentic and relevant. When student engagement increases, generally so do academic gains. This weeklong field trip is so rich, authentic, and in many cases hands-on, that engagement soars. It was amazing seeing my students experience such a special field trip.

As another side note, my colleague's husband attended the Big Zoo Lesson in 2000. He was one of the first groups that got to pilot this program. He still has his entire journal and has such vivid memories of that field trip, even 20+ years later (he observed the penguins). This shows just how amazing and memorable of an experience this is for students.

Animal Care and Research

The Okapi is scheduled to arrive the week of November 19.

The red-tailed hawk has been moved to Bills n Quills for the winter.

The wallabies that we received due to a confiscation are out of quarantine and are on exhibit with the kangaroo.

The kinkajou also received from the confiscation is out of quarantine and will be on exhibit soon.

The new male arctic fox is being introduced to the female fox. A few adjustments need to be made to the exhibit before the male can go on exhibit.

We are working to place out Nimbus the pony. The camel rides will be moving to the old pony ride area in 2024.

Wilson the red panda cub is leaving soon per the SSP breeding and transfer plan.

The male tiger will be transferred to another zoo per the SSP tiger breeding and transfer plan and PPZ will receive an older non-breeding male tiger to exhibit.

Organization	Total (Passes Used)
CADL - Aurelius	69
CADL - Dansville	31
CADL - Downtown Lansing	32
CADL - Foster	68
CADL - Haslett	93
CADL - Holt/Delhi	103
CADL - Leslie	72
CADL - Mason	39
CADL - Okemos	150
CADL - South Lansing	46
CADL - Stockbridge	105
CADL - Webberville	93
CADL - Williamston	61
LNCC - Schmidt	7
LNCC - Foster	13
LNCC -Gier	12
LNCC - Letts	Doesn't use them at this location anymore
Waverly Place Housing	8
LaRoy Froh Housing	11
Hildebrandt Park Housing	2
SIG - Reo School	School was shut down
Allen Neighborhood Centerr	11
Bath Twp Library	62
Briggs District Library	137
Cristo Rey Community Center	6
Delta Twp Library	137
Eaton Rapids Public Library	74
East Lansing Public Library	105
Refugee Development Center	0
Dewitt YMCA	3
Downtown YMCA	Shut down
Parkwood YMCA	Shut down
Oak Park YMCA	12
Westside YMCA	0
Bethlehem Lutheran Church	15
Friendship House	37
Ronald McDonald House	4
STVCC Children's Home	Partnership has been on hold
Charlotte Library	120
Dimondale Library	20
CADL Mobile Library	48

Community Mental Health	50
Guest Sale (Unknown card)	25
Ingham County DHHS	10
Grand Ledge Area District Library	124
Dewitt District Library	82
Broad Art Museum	34
Elsie Public Library	48
Wellspring Lutheran Services	16
Bethany Christian Services - 1	18
Bethany Christian Services - 2	12
Potterville Benton Library	52
Lansing Housing Commission (Central Offices)	2
Angel House	6
EVE	4
	1224