



Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

Consent

F.26.

8/25/2020

Subject:

Approval, Re: Extension to the multi-year grant agreement to the Brevard Zoo Aquarium project, formerly entitled Indian River Lagoon Conservation Campus & Aquarium.

Fiscal Impact:

A total of \$10 million was awarded to the Brevard Zoo Aquarium. This would extend the first payment of \$1,250,000 from 2020 to 2023 if construction begins by September 18, 2023. It would be followed by seven additional payments of that same amount in the following years from Capital Facilities fund #1443.

Dept/Office:

Tourism Development Office

Requested Action:

It is requested that the Board of County Commissioners approve the Tourist Development Council's recommendation to extend the timing of funding for the Brevard Zoo Aquarium project for an additional three years to October, 2023. If construction begins by September 18, 2023, the first of eight payments in the amount of \$1.25 million will be made after all secured matching funds, final master plan, financial statements, and compliance with the Tourism Development Council Statute is included and verified.

Summary Explanation and Background:

At the July 5, 2018 meeting, the Capital Facilities Committee approved funding for the Indian River Lagoon Conservation Campus and Aquarium project. The multi-year grant agreement between the County and the Brevard Zoo was for \$10 million, paying \$1,250,000 per year over 8 years. Funding would be via cash reimbursement from available fund balance or the most economical funding available to the county and recommended consideration and approval of the Tourism Development Council. The TDC approved this project at their July 25, 2018 meeting. The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on September 18, 2018, approved the Tourism Community Development Plan Phase II Capital Projects which included the Aquarium project. In this agreement, the project was due to commence construction by September 18, 2020 or funding would be withdrawn. The Brevard Zoo has requested a 3-year extension, with construction commencing by September 18, 2023. The Tourist Development Council, at their July 22nd, 2020 meeting voted to grant the extension.

Tourism Development Tax revenues are restricted to authorized uses as defined by Florida Statute 125.0104,

directed by Brevard County Code Chapter I 02, Article III, Local Option Tax Plan. In regards to Capital Facilities funding, the statute states authorized uses of these funds are "to acquire, construct, extend, enlarge, remodel, repair, improve, maintain, operate or promote one or more publicly owned and operated convention centers, sports stadiums, sports arenas, coliseums, or auditoriums within the county; and further include museums, zoological parks, aquariums, fishing piers or nature centers which are publicly owned and operated or owned and operated by not-for-profit organizations and open to the public within the county". According to the ordinance regarding Tourist Tax Budget Plan, 14% of budgeted TDT revenues can be used for tourism-related capital facilities projects.

Clerk to the Board Instructions:

Please return a memo of the Board's action to Tourism Development Office Director and County Attorney's Office.



Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board, 400 South Street • P.O. Box 999, Titusville, Florida 32781-0999

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Fax: (321) 264-6972
Kimberly.Powell@brevardclerk.us

August 26, 2020

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Peter Cranis, Tourist Development Office Director

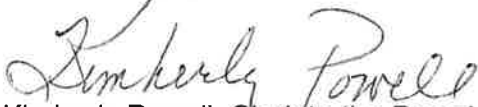
RE: Item F.26., Extension of the Multi-Year Grant Agreement to the Brevard Zoo Aquarium Project, Formerly Entitled Indian River Lagoon Conservation Campus and Aquarium

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on August 25, 2020, approved extending the time of funding for the Brevard Zoo Aquarium Project for an additional two years to October 2022, if construction begins by September 18, 2022, for the first of eight payments in the amount of \$1.25 million, that will be made after all secured matching funds, final master plan, financial statements, and compliance with the Tourism Development Council Statute.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK


Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

/ds

cc: County Attorney
Finance
Budget



"Wildlife Conservation through Education and Participation"

August 10, 2020

Board of County Commissioners
Brevard County, Florida

The East Coast Zoological Society of Florida dba Brevard Zoo is requesting a three-year extension to start of the grant agreement for Tourist Development Council capital funding of the Indian River Lagoon Conservation Campus and Aquarium also referred to as The Aquarium Project. This extension was unanimously approved by the Tourist Development Council at their July 22, 2020 meeting.

We are requesting this extension because of the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on the project. This crisis has affected the timing of the project in three ways. First, by demanding the attention of the leadership team running this project. Our focus since March has been the financial security of the Zoo and the physical safety of our animals, staff, volunteers and guests. This has meant very limited human capital available to work on The Aquarium Project. Second, our partners throughout the community have been dramatically impacted by Covid-19. For example, Port Canaveral has had to move their capital contribution to the project out of this year's budget. We do not know how long it will take until their primary source of funding, cruise passengers, returns to pre-covid levels. Third, and most importantly, it would be irresponsible for Brevard Zoo to seek donor and sponsorship dollars until the end of the crisis is in sight. These dollars are needed in the community right now to deal with the impacts of Covid-19.

In light of these impacts, The Aquarium Project leadership team have elected to continue the planning of the project in terms of design and fundraising, but not resume fundraising until the crisis has passed. Therefore, we are requesting a three-year extension of the date that physical work on the site must commence.

Sincerely,

Keith Winsten
Executive Director



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(321) 254-WILD(9453) • Fax (321) 259-5966
<http://www.brevardzoo.org>

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS





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Tammy.Rowe@brevardclerk.us

September 19, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bonnie King, Tourism Development Assistant Director Attn: Stacy DeLano

RE: Item J.4., Phase II Tourism Community Development Plan Capital Projects

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on September 18, 2018, approved the Tourism Community Development Plan Phase II Capital Projects, to include funding for the Merritt Island National Wildlife Community Conservation Education Center with a cash reimbursement of \$500,000, and the Indian River Lagoon Conservation Campus and Aquarium of \$10 million multi-year grant agreement between the County and the Brevard Zoo, over an eight-year period, and paying \$1,250,000 a year; both Projects must commence construction by September 18, 2020, or funding is withdrawn; approved no money is to be disbursed until all secured matching funds, final master plan, financial statements, and compliance with the Tourism Development Council Statute is included and verified; and to include a finding that the Projects will advance, impact, generate, grow, and promote tourism in the County.

Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK**

Tammy Rowe

Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

/ds

cc: Natural Resources Management Director
County Manager
Finance
Budget