



July 20, 2004

To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place

From: Dianne Young
General Manager & CEO

Subject: Site Visits to Aquariums – Travel Expenses for the Vice-Chair

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board formally ratify the approval previously received by a telephone poll as set out in this report.

Background:

On June 29, 2004, members of the Board (during a poll) reviewed and approved a report dated June 25, 2004 from the General Manager & CEO with respect to approval of travel expenses for the Vice-Chair of the Board.

Discussion:

The following is an extract of the Recommendation, Background and Discussion portion of the foregoing report.

“Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board authorize travel expenses for the Vice-Chair of the Board, Gloria Lindsay Luby to two visit two aquariums in Tennessee on July 14, 15, 16 and 17, 2004 at a cost not to exceed C\$2,100.00.

Background:

The Board’s travel policy states that all travel by members of the Board must be approved in advance by the Board.

Discussion:

As proposed in the 2004 Development Concept Plan approved by the Board and as stated by the Chair of the Board, one of the possible initiatives for Exhibition Place and the City of Toronto is an aquarium in the waterlot area south of the Lake Shore Boulevard generally in the area south of the Bandshell Restaurant. In the Development Concept Plan this area is referred to as Future Study Site 4.

In order to explore the feasibility of such an initiative a staff committee has been formed made up of myself, staff from City Economic Development Department and City Planning. An aquarium would be a significant piece of City infrastructure and the waterlot in question is owned by the City of Toronto although it has in the past been used by Exhibition Place as part of the annual CNE. If feasible, the ultimate aim, as with other developments, would to for the Board/City to secure a partnership with the private sector to build an aquarium.

In order to get a better understanding from present operators of the essential site needs of an aquarium, it was suggested that an exploratory visit to an aquarium was essential. As there are no major aquariums in Canada except the Vancouver Aquarium, we looked to the United States where there are numerous locations. The two chosen are both in Tennessee and are within a day's drive and represent two different types of projects. One is a larger one publicly funded and managed by the state (Chatanooga) and the other was recently constructed, fully funded and managed by the private sector and is now one of the most successful in the United States (Ripley's Aquarium in Gatlinburg). For the information of the Board, Ripley's (owned by Jim Pattison) at one time had a proposal for an aquarium at Ontario Place.

This exploratory trip is to include the Chair of the Board, Vice-Chair and General Manager. The estimated expenses for each person are for travel, accommodation and per diem for the above-noted dates.

As adopted by City Council, business travel expenses for Members of Council in their capacity as Chair or Vice-Chair of City Agencies, Boards or Commissions, are budgeted and paid for by the individual Agency, Board or Commission. Funds for this travel are budgeted in the Convention & Travel account of the Board of Governors.

This report seeks approval of travel expenses for the Vice-Chair of the Board as outlined in this report and required pursuant to the By-law of the Board."

Conclusion:

This report requests formal ratification of travel expenses for the Vice-Chair of the Board.

Contact:

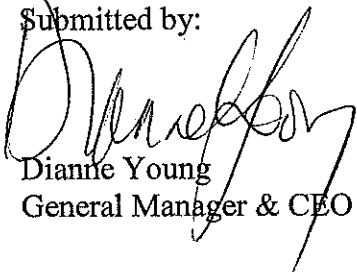
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Submitted by:



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